

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Merle Robbins, President
Emmett W. Chappelle Chapter

Appreciate Where You Are!

During this season of giving, it seems only natural that that I take the time to talk about being appreciative of what we have. In a time when a lot of people are unemployed, under-employed, or have just given up, there are still plenty of reasons to be thankful. For those of us who are still working, that

in and of itself is reason to be thankful. While some may not particularly like the job, the boss, or the agency/company we are working for, still—to have a job is enough to be appreciative. Often times, we forget to look around us and see that there are people who would gladly change places with us. If we believe this not to be the case, stop...look around and listen. You will see people standing on the street soliciting help or a meal. You will also see the sheer magnitude/desperation of those who are literally down to their last dollar. Not to mention, those who this past year have lost the roof over their head and most of what they possessed.

So, if you are still working, have a roof over your head, and are in reasonably good health, you have much to appreciate. If at some time you begin to doubt your good fortune, or forget to appreciate your current situation; stop what you are doing, look around you,

and see the plight of those who are truly less fortunate.

I challenge you to remember the words of Norman Vincent Peale, "Change your thoughts and you change your world." Change the way you view your circumstance. Instead of seeing the negative in a situation, try to look for the positive.

I have a supervisor who reminds me the glass is not half empty, but half full. I appreciate her reminder. It is sometimes easy to get caught up seeing the negative. I am thankful to her for reminding me that, things are what you make them.

Merle Robbins

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.

Rabindranath Tagoree

EMMETT W. CHAPPELLE CHAPTER HOLDS BI-ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Emmett Chappelle Chapter of Blacks in Government held elections for the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer on November 15.

Merle Robbins and Anetra Tucker were reelected as president and chapter secretary, respectively.

Betty Pyles-Harris will join the board as the newly elected treasurer and will serve as the organization's chief financial officer. Pyles-Harris' service to BIG includes a previous stint as treasurer. She currently coordinates the chapter's candy bar sales program, one of the existing Emmett W. Chappelle Scholarship fundraising initiatives.

In addition to her duties with BIG, Pyles-Harris is also treasurer of the Goddard Employee Welfare Association (GEWA) where she maintains an operating budget of nearly \$300,000 per year.

Outside of GSFC, Pyles-Harris maintains an active presence in her community having served as treasurer for two homeowners' associations.

The board's new term will begin January 1, 2012.

CHAPPELLE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



(L-R) Leslie Selden, Lakellia Butler, Ti'ona Smith, and Cierra Kenney (Missing from photo: Jasmine Conwell)

The Emmett W. Chappelle Chapter of Blacks in Government at NASA Goddard awarded nearly \$3,000 to five rising college freshmen as part of its 2011 Emmett W. Chappelle Scholarship Luncheon on July 26. The five students were recognized for their superior academic achievement and commitment to community service. Retired Goddard employee Dillard Menchan served as the keynote for the celebratory luncheon. Mr. Menchan, among other things, spoke to the college bound students about remaining focused and what it will take to be successful in the collegiate environment.

"While I firmly believe 'it takes a village to raise a child'; I also know that it sometimes takes money to send that child down the right path." Said Emmett W. Chappelle Chapter President, Merle Robbins. "BIG is proud of its legacy and ability to serve as a resource for all who desire to improve performance, advocate for justice, and promote equity."

The Emmett W. Chappelle Scholarship Award was created as a vehicle to encourage academic excellence, promote higher education, and to increase opportunities for young people to make an impact. The Emmett W. Chappelle scholarship is awarded annually to deserving high school seniors attending an accredited secondary educational institution.

Applicants must be a child or relative of a NASA Goddard employee. This year's honorees and their institutions include: Leslie Selden (Spelman College), Lakellia Butler (University of Maryland, College Park), Ti'ona Smith (Salisbury University), Cierra Kenney (Salisbury University), and Jasmine Conwell (Northeastern University).

Season's Greetings from all of us here at the
Emmett W. Chappelle Chapter of Blacks in Government



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming BIG General

Body Meetings

January 17, 2012

February 21, 2012

March 20, 2012

CONTACT US

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BIG Membership Benefits

- BIG is an employee support group
- BIG is a community resource
- BIG is networking
- BIG keeps you informed
- BIG recognizes achievements



JOIN TODAY

Contact Membership Chairperson, Cynthia Jones-Savoy, at
Cynthia.a.jones-savoy@nasa.gov for a membership application