



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

February 28, 2018

African American history month celebration at MWRD recognizes local leaders' ascent to the national stage



(L-R) Diversity Administrator Regina Berry, Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Vice President Barbara McGowan.



Dr. Conrad Worrill greets former Senator Roland Burris.



Congressman Danny Davis addresses the crowd as Dr. Conrad Worrill and Jonathan Jackson look on.



Jonathan Jackson, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition spokesman and brother to former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., discussed his role at Rainbow/PUSH and the career of his brother.

In observance of African American history month, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) paused to recognize the path and commitment of several African American leaders who ascended to the national stage.

The annual African American celebration, entitled “Ascent to the National Stage,” documented an overview of

Illinois elected officials’ rise to the national arena.

The event, hosted by MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan and the MWRD Diversity Section, featured a talented group of speakers that included elected officials U.S. Representatives Danny Davis and Robin Kelly; former U.S. Senator Roland Burris; and Jonathan Jackson, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition *(continued)*

African American history month celebration at MWRD *(continued)*



(L-R) MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre, Tony Land, MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Dr. Conrad Worrill and Betty Magness from Rainbow/PUSH.



The family of the late MWRD Commissioner Timothy Bradford accepts an award and resolution.

spokesman and brother to the former U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Internationally acclaimed scholar, educator and activist Dr. Conrad Worrill served as master of ceremonies. The event paused to also recognize the late MWRD Commissioner Tim Bradford, who passed away in December after serving as a commissioner for three years. His family was in attendance and accepted a resolution on Commissioner Bradford's behalf.

"This was a fantastic night to recognize the major achievements of many African American leaders and celebrate the progress paved by these influential leaders who have offered strong voices at home in our Chicago communities and on a national platform in Washington, D.C.," said Vice President McGowan. "We thank our wonderful speakers for joining us tonight and for their continued leadership and commitment to our legacy."

The event also highlighted the work of other notable African American elected officials from Illinois, including former President Barack Obama, U.S. Representative Bobby Rush and former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun. Jimmy Pryor and the Double J band provided musical entertainment.



The Jimmy Pryor band performs.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.