



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

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The Legacy Continues: Descendants of leaders in the civil rights movement speak to Atlanta's youth



Left to right (seated): Maynard Jackson III, Andrea Young, Minister Elisabeth Omilami, Michael Russell. Left to right (standing): Hank Stewart, Susan "Sue" Ross, Mitch Faulkner, Twanda Black, Councilman Michael Julian Bond, Art Terrell

ATLANTA – On Monday, February 29 Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond presented a panel discussion entitled, “The Legacy Continues ~ Descendants of Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement” at Atlanta City Hall in celebration of Black History Month.

Councilman Bond, the son of the late civil rights leader Julian Bond, and several adult children of the civil rights movement came together for the first time to talk about their experiences: things they saw, heard, and learned while growing up with civil rights leaders.

The event opened with R&B Singer Sheryl Boyd and the attendees standing and singing resounding rendition of the spiritual hymn "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*," a song used throughout the American Civil Rights struggle and is often referred to as the National Black Anthem.

Participants included:

- Maynard Jackson III – son of former Mayor Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr.
- Andrea Young – daughter of former Ambassador Andrew Young and Jean Childs Young
- Michael Russell – son of Herman J. Russell
- Minister Elisabeth Omilami – daughter of Hosea Williams

Middle school students from Atlanta Public Schools were invited to hear these adult children recall their personal history of what life was like for them in the south during segregation and how they watched their parents work together to bring change. Participating schools included Harper-Archer Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, Ralph J. Bunche Middle School, Sutton Middle School, and Brown Middle School.

"The American Civil Rights Movement was a turning point in our nation's history in which I and many other children of civil rights saw up close and personal," Councilmember Bond said. "While others saw these men and women as brave leaders, we as their children saw them as mom and dad as well. As a youth we all persevered through the constant strain of wondering if our parents would be safe from harm as they fought for a better life and equality for my generation and generations to come."

"I would like to personally thank my friends and fellow panelists for sharing their stories in hopes that the youth today will continue the never ending struggle for civil and human rights for all."

Students and guests also had an opportunity to view photographs of civil right leaders that were taken by renowned Atlanta photographer Susan Ross.

Lunches were provided courtesy of Chick-fil-A for the youth. Following the program and lunch attendees had an opportunity to take photos with each of the panelists.

The host committee for the event was Men of Distinction-Atlanta and Women of Distinction Inc.

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