



Central Florida YMCA

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HUNDREDS COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF A LOCAL HERO

Annual breakfast held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy

ORLANDO, FL ... On Monday, the Central Florida YMCA, Southwest Orlando Jaycees and the City of Orlando hosted the 16th annual Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Prayer Breakfast in honor of Kennedy, Orlando's first African-American elected official and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The breakfast was held at the First Baptist Church of Orlando and celebrated the life and accomplishments of both community leaders.

During the breakfast, the 2007 Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Angela Adams and Drs. Stanley and Florence Alexander. Dr. Adams, executive director for the Central Florida Pharmacy Council, was recognized for founding the African American Men's Health Summit which educates African American men on their risk factors for prostate cancer, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, kidney diseases, mental health issues and HIV. The Drs. Alexander, founders of Ebon Research Systems, were recognized for their generous philanthropic deeds including the funding of several youth scholarships and community projects.

In addition, the Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Scholarship for \$1,200 was presented to Elias G. Caffey, II, a senior at Seminole High School in Sanford. Among his many accomplishments, Caffey has shown leadership and community service by dedication numerous hours to SECME, Business Professionals of America, the local library, and serving as a youth coach and Bible School teacher at his church. Elias has been accepted to University of Central Florida and DeVry University and plans to pursue a degree in Computer Information Technology.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orange County Commissioner Tiffany Moore, Congresswoman Corrine Brown and several other elected officials joined community members of religious denominations and races at the breakfast. Reverend Floyd Flake, former U.S. Representative and current senior pastor of the 12,000 member Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica, Queens, New York, served as the keynote speaker to a crowd of more than 700 people. Guests listened as Reverend Flake spoke about the importance of Dr. King and Pappy Kennedy's work, both nationally and in the local community.

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The Central Florida YMCA has a long history of partnership and commitment to the African-American community and supports the Arthur “Pappy” Kennedy Prayer Breakfast as part of its mission to help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. In addition to the “Pappy” Kennedy event, the Central Florida YMCA’s Black Achievers program, part of the overall YMCA Achievers initiative, was created to develop future community leaders. YMCA Black Achievers activities and programs are facilitated by adult professionals who provide mentoring and guidance to students in grades six through 12, helping them to make positive life choices and successfully prepare them for the future. YMCA Achievers activities are designed to ignite interest, motivate success and provide exposure to positive and productive life choices.

Established in 1885, the Central Florida YMCA is one of the largest nonprofit community organizations in Central Florida. With 25 Family Centers in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Brevard and Marion counties, the YMCA gave over \$8.2 million in financial assistance, membership, and program subsidies to over 30,000 kids, teens, adults, and seniors in 2005. Committed to the community, with 13 middle school after school sites, 22 elementary after school sites, 16 senior outreach programs and four teen achievers centers, the YMCA maintains its mission to improve lives of all in Central Florida.

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Editor’s note: Photo of Arthur “Pappy” Kennedy Scholarship is attached.

Photo Caption (Pictured L to R): Central Florida YMCA President, Jim Ferber; Central Florida YMCA Board Chairman, Mary Rumberger; 2007 Pappy Kennedy Scholarship Recipient, Elias G. Caffey, II; Lawanna Gelzer and Sean Bradford of Southwest Orlando Jaycees.