

Farewell to a President

continued ▲ from Front

the fractious debate in the church over its growing acceptance of homosexual relationships, and said Ford did not think the issue should be splitting Episcopalians. He was Ford's pastor at St. Margaret's Church in Palm Desert, Calif.

"He asked me if we would face schism after we discussed the various issues we would consider, particularly concerns about human sexuality and the leadership of women," Certain said. "He said that he did not think they should be divisive for anyone who lived by the great commandments and the great commission to love God and to love neighbor."

The Episcopal Church has been under pressure from traditionalists for its 2003 consecration of the first openly gay

bishop. Several prominent Virginia parishes have recently broken away from the church in protest.

Ford died at 93 on Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

The national funeral service capped Washington's portion of a state funeral that concludes with a final public visitation in Grand Rapids, a private service, and interment on a hillside overlooking his museum.

Ford was appointed vice president by Nixon to replace Spiro Agnew, who resigned in a bribery scandal stemming from his days as Maryland governor. After Nixon resigned, Ford assumed the presidency for 2 1/2 years.

A month after taking office, Ford pardoned Nixon for any Watergate crimes he might have committed.

U.S. Deaths Reach 3,000 in Iraq

Unwelcome milestone for President George W. Bush

As 2006 came to an end, the toll of U.S. troops in Iraq hit another grim milestone, 3,000 dead.

The most recently announced deaths were typical of the killings this year. The Pentagon announced that Spc. Dustin R. Donica, 22, of Spring, Texas, had been killed Thursday by small arms fire in Baghdad and that another, still unidentified, soldier died in a southeastern neighborhood of the city when a roadside bomb exploded near his patrol.

Overall, the rate of military fatalities has remained relentlessly steady since the 1,000th death was announced in Sept. 2004. But roadside bombs -- what the military calls improvised explosive devices -- have become much more deadly, accounting for about half of the last thousand U.S. troop deaths, compared to 38 percent of the second thou-



Coffins of U.S. military personnel are offloaded at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware, the first stop for the bodies of troops being sent home, in this undated file photo.

sand deaths.

The most dangerous part of Iraq for U.S. troops remains Anbar province in the western deserts, but deaths in Baghdad have increased sharply since this summer, when the military increased patrols there in hopes of dampen-

ing the sectarian civil war that has gripped the capital and surrounding areas.

At least 111 American troops have been killed in December, making it the deadliest month for U.S. forces since the battle for Fallouja in Nov. 2004. Overall, at least 820

U.S. military personnel were killed in 2006.

The 3000th death comes in the wake of the execution of deposed president Saddam Hussein, an event that military leaders believe will lead to more attacks against U.S. troops, at least in the short run.

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Officers Surrender for Katrina Murders

AP—Seven policemen charged in a deadly bridge shooting in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina turned themselves in Tuesday at the New Orleans City Jail.

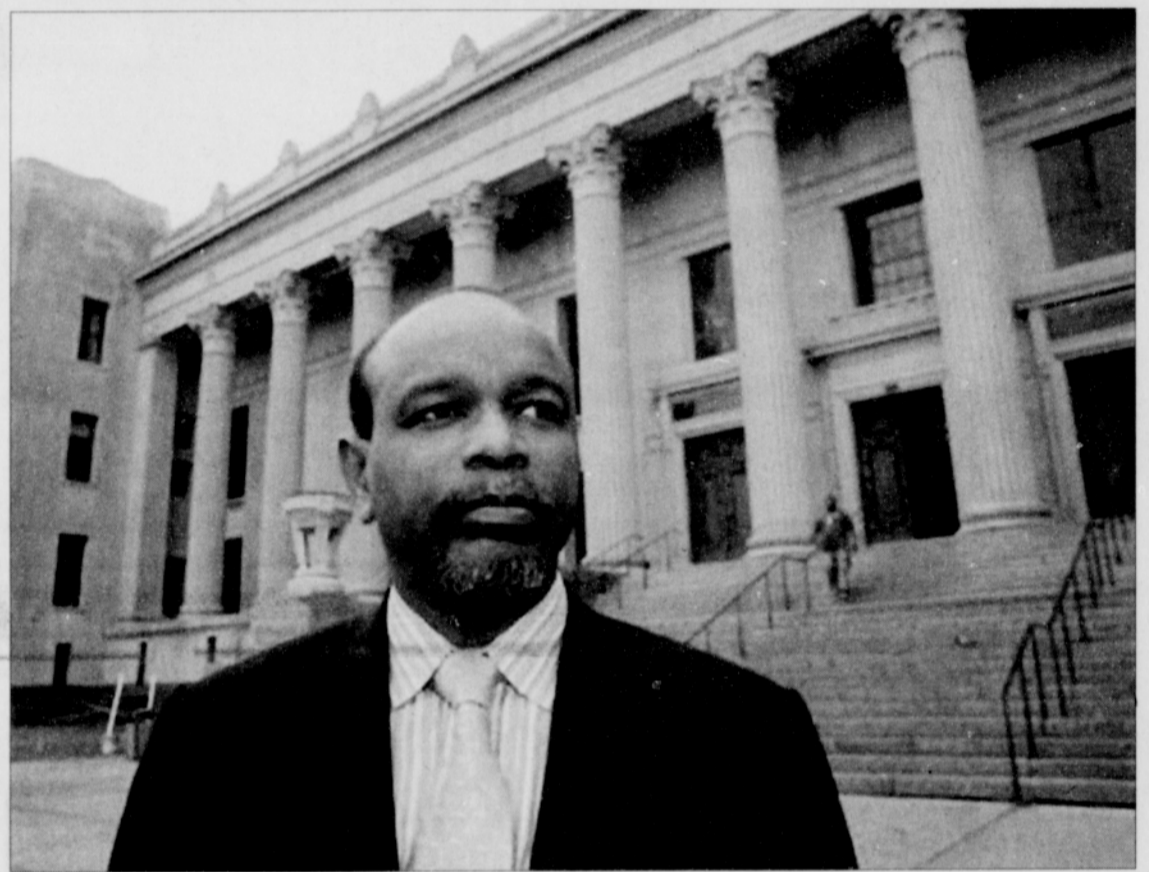
Each of the indicted men faces at least one charge of murder or attempted murder in the Sept. 4, 2005, shootings on the Danziger Bridge less than a week after the hurricane hit New Orleans. Two people died and four people were wounded.

Defense attorneys say the seven officers are innocent of the charges.

As the men arrived at the jail, supporters lined the street, stepping forward to embrace the seven men and shake their hands. One sign in the crowd read "Support the Danziger 7."

One protester shouted "Police killings must stop" and "Racism must go" but was shouted down by the crowd yelling: "Heroes, Heroes."

The Rev. Raymond Brown, of the New Orleans chapter of the National Action Network, said racism was a factor in the shootings, even though four of the officers, like the two victims, are black.



New Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie J. Jordan Jr.: "We cannot allow our police officers to shoot and kill our citizens without justification like rabid dogs."

"We see the black officers as just following their master," Brown said.

Six of the officers were suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case. The seventh,

Faulcon, has left the department and is now a truck driver in Houston, said his lawyer, Franz Ziblich.

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Event: Doing Business with Local Public Agencies
Where: PCC Central Campus, 1626 SE Water Ave, Portland
When: Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Who should attend: Minority, Women & Emerging Small Business Owners
Information: Greg Wolley, 503.823.6860, gwolley@ci.portland.or.us
To register: Gale Hussey, 503.823.5057, ghussey@ci.portland.or.us

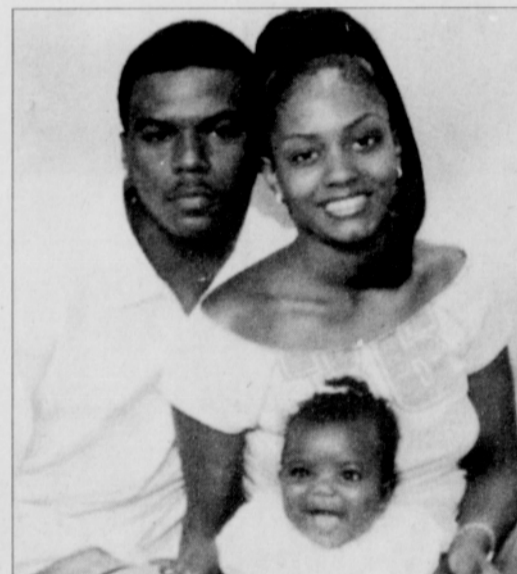


Vigil Begins For Groom Fatally Shot

AP—The family of Sean Bell, the groom fatally shot by police on his wedding day, has begun a round-the-clock 50-day vigil in front of a police precinct to press for indict-

ments in the case and the appointment of a special prosecutor.

Bell's mother, Valerie, began the vigil at 4:56 a.m. Monday — approximately the same time that her



Sean Bell, pictured with fiancée Nicole Paultre-Bell and daughter Jada.

son was killed in a barrage of police gunfire outside a club with strippers — outside a police precinct in the Jamaica section of the borough of Queens where the shooting occurred. Bell's fiancée, Nicole Paultre-Bell, joined the vigil Monday night, the family's attorney said.

Sean Bell, 23, was killed by police

on Nov. 25, 2006, after celebrating what would have been his last night of bachelorhood at the club. Two friends were also wounded in the hail of 50 bullets fired by a group of plainclothes detectives who police later said were staking out the strip club because of alleged criminal activity there. Bell and his friends were unarmed.

Taunting Execution Fuels Mideast Anger

continued ▲ from Front

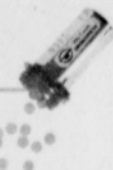
allowed by guards and police to enter the holy place carrying a mock coffin and photos of the former dictator.

The protest took place at the

Golden Dome, a Shiite shrine bombed by Sunni extremists 10 months ago. That attack triggered the current cycle of retaliatory attacks between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, in the form of daily bombings, kidnappings and murders.

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