

## Charles Washington Remembered



### Portland Observer publisher dies at age 60

Portland Observer Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Charles H. Washington died Saturday. He was 60 years old.

Washington led the newspaper, the oldest African-American publication in the state, since 1993 when he took over the company from his mother, Joyce Washington.

He joined the Portland Observer in 1990 as public relations director and assistant editor after a 15 year entrepreneurial stint in small business ownership and property management.

He developed a new marketing strategy, restructured operations, and was instrumental in propelling the paper into the mainstream publication and influential community voice that it is today.

He was a strong advocate for local schools and improving the economic base of Portland's minority communities.

Last month, when the Portland Observer Foundation sponsored a community banquet to award scholarships for young people and recognize leaders from the community who are advocates for disadvantaged and minority communities, the event discussed the publication's mission.

Washington's goal as publisher was to create a media outlet that was dedicated to diversity, the African-American community, but also the Latino, immigrant and newly gentrified communities. As Portland grew in diversity, the Portland Observer grew.

With the help of his brothers and wife, Elizabeth, Washington worked hard to ensure that his mother's legacy as a tireless advocate for the community continued.

He established in 1996 the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund for graduates.

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Portland Observer Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Charles Washington

**Charles Washington Remembered, Dec. 12, 2012** -- *Portland Observer Publisher and Editor-in-Chief is remembered after his death at the age of 60. Charles Washington's goal as publisher was to create a media outlet that was dedicated to diversity, the African-American community, but also the Latino, immigrant and newly gentrified communities. As Portland grew in diversity, the Portland Observer grew.*

## 50th Anniversary Cover Page

*Photo descriptions from our 50th Anniversary front page cover:*

- 1) Kobe Bryant's death stuns the world;
- 2) Derrick Foxworth named Portland Police Chief and meets with former Chief Charles Moose at the Portland Observer;
- 3) Gov. Kate Brown declares public health emergency because of the coronavirus;
- 4) Portland Observer Publisher Charles Washington with guests of honor Mayor Vera Katz and Oregonian Editor William Hilliard at the newspaper's 25th anniversary celebration;
- 5) Barack and Michelle Obama on Inauguration Day ;
- 6) Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Bishop Grace Osborne, Bishop A.A. Wells and Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes share their views in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday;
- 7) Portland Observer Office Manager Lucinda Baldwin;
- 8) Portland Observer Publisher Joyce Washington;
- 9) Mayor Ted Wheeler meets with Mark Washington and Portland Observer Editor Michael Leighton;
- 10) Portland Trail Blazer Damian Lillard takes ownership of a metro area Toyota dealership;
- 11) Members of the Albina Ministerial Alliance allege bias in a grand jury's decision supporting police in the fatal shooting of a Black man;
- 12) Esteemed Portland Police Officer Harry Jackson promotes peace in the community.

## Self Enhancement, Inc. congratulates The Portland Observer on its 50th Anniversary!



As the largest black owned business in the state, we recognize just how important it is to have a consistent Black voice in the media.

We have traveled a difficult road but we are no ways tired. Together we continue to show up and if need be show out.

Thank you for 50 years of dedication and service to the Portland Community.

In honor and memory of my classmate Chucky Washington.

*Tony Hopson, Sr.  
and the Self Enhancement, Inc. family*

**SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC.**  
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