

Every Republican in Congress Fails Blacks

The new NAACP Report Card for the first session of the 112th Congress is out and it shows that every graded Republican member of the House and Senate received an F on issues considered important to the nation's oldest civil rights group.

In the Senate, all 46 GOP senators received Fs from NAACP. Of those, 34 voted against the NAACP's position every time, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and former presidential candidate John McCain. In the House, all 238 Republicans graded also received Fs. Although GOP House members have a reputation but being more conservative than their Senate colleagues, only 10 House Republicans voted against the NAACP every time.

In stark contrast to Republicans, 47 Democrats in the Senate earned As, three received Bs, one got a D and none received an F. The two independents in the Senate, Connecticut's Joe Lieberman and Bernie Sanders of Vermont,

THE CURRY REPORT

George E. Curry



received a B and an A, respectively.

In the House, all 238 Republicans graded earned an F. House Democrats voted like their counterparts in the Senate: 159 earned As, 22 got Bs, four earned Cs, one got a D and four received Fs.

I have been studying NAACP legislative report cards for a couple of decades and I can't remember a time when Republicans in Congress have been this solidified in their hostility towards civil rights. About eight years ago, Republican Congresswoman Mary S. Leach of Iowa earned a C. More recently a couple of Republicans have earned Ds as the rest

flunked.

In the session of Congress that lasted from Jan. 5, 2011 to Dec. 23, 2011, only one Republican – Senator Scott Brown (R-Mass.) – voted with the NAACP 40 percent of the time. The GOP's so-called moderate senators – Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine – supported the NAACP 33 percent of the time.

The NAACP graded members of Congress on votes taken on such issues as repealing funding

Democrats and Republicans. There is difference – a huge difference at that.

Even the Black Republican alternatives are not viable alternatives. Congressman Tim Scott of South Carolina backed the NAACP only 5 percent of the time. The only other Black House Republican, Allen B. West, also earned an F, supporting the NAACP 25 percent of the time.

It hasn't always been this way. In fact, most Blacks voted Repub-

In the bygone years, the Republican Party had such moderates as New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Mayor John Lindsey of New York City and Connecticut Sen. Lowell Weicker. It even had Black Republicans who fought for civil rights. But the GOP began the political equivalent of ethnic cleansing in 1964 with the nomination of Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, who made an open appeal to segregationists. Goldwater's "Southern Strategy" went up with flames, with Blacks giving Lyndon Johnson 94 percent of their vote.

Over the last half century, GOP moderates, such as former Secretary of State Colin Powell have either been pushed out of the party or marginalized. Moderates have been replaced by rabid Tea Party activists who have pushed an already conservative party to the extreme right.

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for health care reform, judicial nominations, deep budget cuts, job creation and criminal justice reform.

This NAACP Report Card should put to rest the lie that there's no difference between

Republican until switching to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dwight D. Eisenhower received 39 percent of the Black vote in 1956. In his close election with John F. Kennedy in 1960, Blacks gave Richard Nixon 32 percent of their vote.

Read the rest online at www.theskanner.com



Gil Noble and Mike Wallace – Legendary Journalists

Two giants of journalism died recently, days apart, leaving a deep void in the coverage of significant stories that speak to the history of a people and the corruption of the system. Gil Noble was the producer/host of the iconic, long-running, award-winning public affairs program "Like It Is," which aired on the ABC affiliate, WABC-TV, in New York. The weekly program that was aired 33 years, covered people, places and events that affected the African American community, nationally and internationally, and focused on stories often ignored by mainstream media outlets. Gil died on April 5 at the age of 80 from complica-

THE BLACK PRESS

Linda Tarrant-Reid

That same year, MLK and RFK were assassinated, LBJ had decided not to seek reelection and Richard M. Nixon, who became known as "Tricky Dick," would go on to capture the highest office in the land.

Noble got his first media job at WLIB, a Black radio station in Harlem in the early 1960s. A temporary position that was only to last three months, Noble loved his new gig and vowed to learn everything he could in the short time allotted to him by Bill McCreary, the news director. After three months, Noble was retained and from his radio perch came into contact with the Who's Who of African American history and culture, including Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Dizzy Gillespie, Errol Garner and members of the Black Panther Party.

One chance meeting resulted in an onscreen career. A White reporter at WABC-TV asked Noble if he would be interested in a job as a TV reporter. Gil answered in the affirmative, was interviewed and given a one week, on-air audition. His first assignment was covering the Newark riots right after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. His work was so impressive that he was hired as a street reporter and would go on to become a weekend anchor and then the host of "Like It Is."

"Like It Is" grew out of the Kerner Commission's Report, a scathing study that concluded that the news media's lack of diversity directly contributed to its poor

coverage of urban the rebellions

Gil Noble was a beneficiary of the White-owned media finally holding up a mirror to its face. He became the co-host of "Like It Is" with actor Robert Hooks in 1968. In an interview with Harold Hudson Channer in 1998, Noble said "Like It Is" was the only ABC program produced and conceptualized by people of

African descent.

No one will replace Gil Noble as the journalist guide who brought our stories to a wider audience in a medium that was reluctant to give us a stage. His interviews with Muhammad Ali, Louis Farrakhan, Sarah Vaughn, Lena Horne, Nelson Mandela, Aretha Franklin, and his documentary on Malcolm X have given us priceless, first-per-

son historic nuggets that define each of us and our history.

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Noble and Wallace were on TV at the height of the Civil Rights Movement

tions of a stroke; his appearances on "Like It Is" ended in 2011.

The other journalist who passed away the same week was Mike Wallace, the "60 Minutes" firebrand who made most of his subjects uncomfortable with his hard-charging, confrontational interviews. Wallace, 93, died after a long illness. Wallace, the king of ambush interviews, asked the questions others were afraid to bring up and in many cases, received answers that no one expected.

Noble and Wallace became associated with TV programs that would define their careers and legacies in 1968, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. It was a period of student protests against the Vietnam War and political upheaval at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

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