

## Charleston

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to bed so she could be there for her congregation and for the community.

The vigil closed with a candle-lighting ceremony to

worship, not just at Black churches but all churches," PPB spokesperson Sgt. Pete Simpson told *The Skanner News*.



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Rev. Terry McCray Hill, pastor of Bethel AME Church in Northeast Portland, helps a community member light a candle at a vigil last Thursday for victims of last week's shooting in Charleston, S.C.

honor the shooting victims. McCray Hill urged those in the congregation to make contact with two or three people they had never met before.

Shortly before the vigil, the Portland Police Bureau announced that it would have officers in the neighborhood while it took place. In addition to having a presence in the surrounding area, four uniformed officers stood in the lobby during the ceremony. Friday PPB announced it would provide extra patrols in areas neighboring houses of worship in Portland.

"Basically, it's a response to what happened in Charleston and recognizing that people here in Portland are going to feel affected by it and apprehensive about going to their places of

Each precinct is responsible for determining coverage in its own area.

"It started over the weekend. I've not heard anything negative about the weekend or that there were any problems or issues."

Nationwide discussion about the Confederate battle flag has turned a spotlight on the presence of the Mississippi flag – which incorporates the Confederate flag into its design – in Salem in a public park.

The Oregonian reported on the flag's presence at a park near the capitol building in Salem, and have noted other state governments have passed laws prohibiting flying of the battle flag on their property. On Tuesday, Rep. Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) announced he planned to introduce a

resolution calling for replacement of the flag.

The Willamette Week also reported this week on the presence of the battle flag at the Jefferson Davis Park in Ridgefield, Wash., outside Vancouver, just south of the Gee Creek Rest Area on I-5. The park, which opened in 2008, sits on a small parcel of privately-owned property owned by a group called the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The group describes itself as "non-political and non-Racist," but Vancouver leaders from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People told *The Columbian* Monday that the park and flag send a message of "bigotry, and divisiveness and hatred."

Retailers, including Elmer's Flag Shop in Northeast Portland as well as major sellers like Wal-Mart, Amazon and eBay, all announced Tuesday they would no longer be selling Confederate battle flags.

## Community Helps 'Grandfather'



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEONARD SMITH

Leonard Smith, 77, Vancouver, the former owner of Grandfather's BBQ and a founder of the Mississippi Avenue Street Fair, has chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and needs of stem cell therapy treatment to repair his lung. His insurance does not cover this type of treatment, and friends and community members have rallied to help Smith raise money for his care. Those interested in helping can contribute at <http://www.gofundme.com/leonardsmith>.

## Allen Temple CME Church 1st Annual Unsung Heroes & Heroines Award Breakfast

The Allen Temple CME Church Family is inviting you to attend the first annual "Unsung Heroes and Heroines Award," at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, Maranatha Church, 4222 NE 12th Avenue.

Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr. is the Senior Pastor of Allen Temple CME Church and Presiding Elder of the Oregon/Washington District and Alaska Pacific Conference. Allen Temple CME Church is a church that reaches beyond the walls to meet the needs and serve the community.

This is a fundraising event to help rebuild our church. The cost of the break-

fast is \$20. Contact Rev. Rhonda L. Smith for ticket information.

The purpose of the award is to acknowledge and honor an individual(s) or organization(s) who are unknown but, making a difference in the community by assisting underserved individuals or groups and improving their quality of life. The categories of recognition are in the following areas: education, drug addiction programs, homeless ministry, athletics, religion, youth programs, journalism/media, arts, health, foster care, gang prevention/resource and social justice.

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Have a Safe and Fun 4th of July  
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Pastors Jerry & Annie Gutierrez

**Thursday, July 2nd at 7pm**

**New Song Community Center**  
2511 NE MLK Blvd • Portland, OR 97212  
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