

Black History Month

Alvin Ailey: Dance Pioneer

Alvin Ailey emerged as a luminary in the dance world, a visionary whose profound effect transcends the boundaries of the stage.



after his father abandoned the family and his mother was raped, he found solace and self-discovery in dance, art and journal writing. He eventually moved to Los Angeles where he was able to explore the arts and take gymnastics.

Under the mentorship of Lester Horton, Ailey honed his craft and developed a unique choreographic voice combining many dance styles from Native American-inspired styles to ballet. Horton's dance school was one of the first racially integrated schools in the U.S. When Horton died suddenly in 1953, Ailey took over the company as artistic director.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

In 1958, Ailey founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, a groundbreaking ensemble that would become a cultural institution,

fusing the elements of modern dance with the rich tapestry of African-American cultural expression. Ailey's choreography breathed life into narratives inspired by the African-American experience, capturing the essence of struggle, resilience and triumph.

His work stressed in-

tersectionality even before that phrase was popular as he was also a gay man and his work combined theater, modern dance, ballet, jazz and the Black vernacular.

The company's signature piece, "Revelations," choreographed by Ailey in 1960, stands as a testament to his genius.

An exploration of spirituals and gospel music, "Revelations" transcends dance, becoming a cultural touchstone that reflects the indomitable spirit of the African-American community. It continues to be a highly popular ballet performed around the world.

Obituary: Norman Branch

July 29, 1955 - January 31, 2024

Today our beloved Norman Branch is resting peacefully amongst others that have gone before him. He has graciously received his wings of gold.

Everyone looked up to him, he didn't allow any confusion. Like the strength of Gorilla glue, he was the adhesive of his family.

A Five Star General, a Legend, and Entrepreneur, a successful businessman who had a word when it came to taking care of business.

Mainly to his children though, he was just "Daddy".

The love for his chil-



Norman Branch

dren, siblings, extended family, and friends, was phenomenal. He embraced strangers, they became a part of his family. An influential icon to people in Portland, Ore.

Words of wisdom to his children were: "Never Fold", "Keep Your Word", "Always Stand on Respect", "Do Right by Others" and "Keep Your Heart Right".

Norman was a true example of the phrase blood, sweat and tears. From hard work throughout the years, achieving all the goals he set for himself, is what made him the man he became. Especially the goal of

remodeling his parents' home, the place he grew up in with his siblings, and able to share with his children.

Happier days were spent around his close friends known as "The Dream Team", fishing, on a boat enjoying life. One day Norman found himself on the edge of a fishing bank in his boxer's and T-shirt, with a fishing pole in hand. He probably caught a lot of fish that day. (lol).

Our beloved Norman is gone physically, but not in our hearts. He lives forever in our souls.

This loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, relative and friend will be missed dearly for Mr. Norman Branch was one in a Zillion, not a Trillion or a Million.

The Skanner News

Broadway transformed the landscape of modern dance, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

Born Jan. 5, 1931, in Rogers, Texas, Ailey's journey from a small town to the dazzling lights of

Growing up in poverty



play it forward 

From Your Lottery Play to Our Students' Tomorrows

It All Started in 1995

Although the Oregon Lottery wasn't founded with the goal of supporting education, after ten years, Oregon voters decided it would be a wise idea to use a portion of Lottery proceeds to support our schools. Today more than fifty percent of all Lottery proceeds go to supporting Oregon public schools, from kindergarten all the way through college. In total, that's more than nine billion dollars since 1995.

Dollars Flow Across the State

The dollars flow to all 197 school districts in every county of the state. Their impact is felt in tiny, one-room schools like Ashwood School in Jefferson County to Sherwood High School's massive new campus in Washington County. The dollars help with the costs of everything from teacher salaries to classroom technology, textbooks, enrichment programs and more.

When lots of Oregonians each play their favorite lottery games – like Powerball, Keno, Scratch-its and more – dollars add up for education. Your play today helps make a better future possible for students, and, through them, for all of us. Thank you for playing!



OREGON LOTTERY

Lottery games should be played for entertainment only

