

LBJ Library Reopens with Interactive Exhibit Highlighting Johnson's Presidency

by Melissa Fontenette-Mitchell | The Villager

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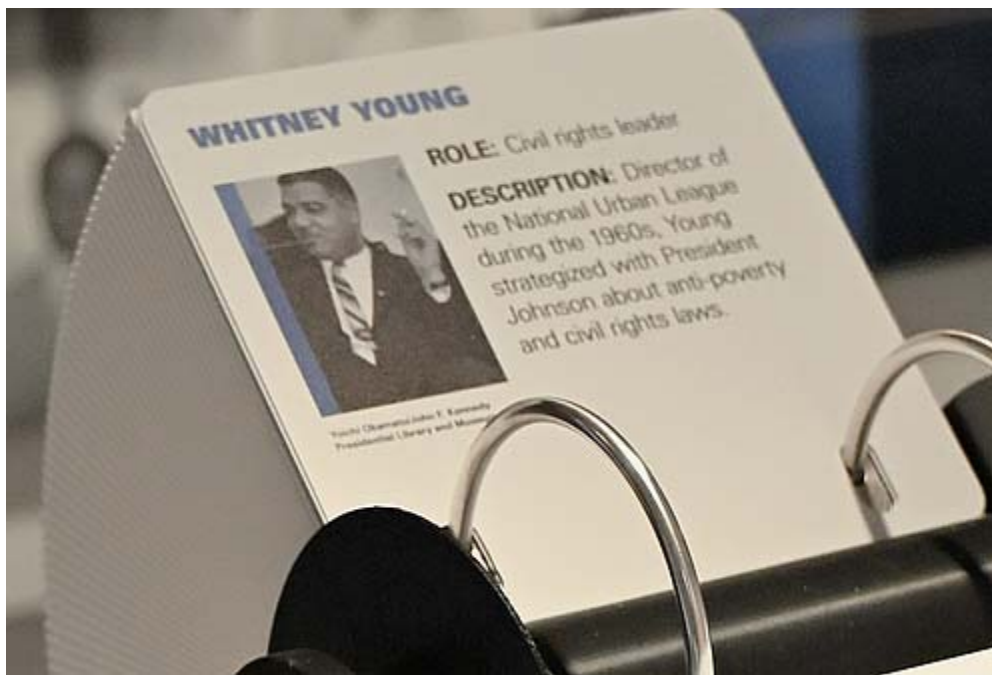


Photo of Whitney Young, Civil Rights Leader and Director of the National Urban League during the 1960s. /Melissa Fontenette-Mitchell

(AUSTIN, TX) — Community visitors' steps into the newly renovated Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library to experience an exhibit that will bring to life the leadership and complex legacy of the nation's 36th president, Lyndon B. Johnson, into sharper focus.

Reopened on March 7, the updated permanent exhibition features multimedia storytelling and interactive displays on the expanded historical perspectives that guide guests through Johnson's journey from the Texas Hill Country to the White House. The exhibit explores the defining moments of his presidency,

including the historic landmark Civil Rights movement and such programs that were aimed at reducing poverty and expanding education and healthcare in America.

Visitors also encounter the challenges and tensions of Johnson's presidency, including the political and social upheaval of the 1960s and the difficult decisions surrounding the Vietnam War. Through immersive galleries and updated technology, the exhibit provides deeper context for understanding Johnson as both a visionary reformer and a leader navigating one of the most turbulent periods in

modern American history.

The LBJ Presidential Library is located on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin; the library continues to serve as a center for history, the life of LBJ, Social Justice, and Community conversations. The renewed exhibit invites visitors to reflect on how Johnson's policies and leadership continue to influence conversations today about civil rights, equity, and the role of government in shaping society.

The exhibit is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 1. Visit LBJ Presidential Library for more information.

When They Can't Tell Jesse Jackson from Reggie Jackson

The Disrespect Isn't a Gaffe — It's a Pattern

By Villager staff

(VILLAGER) - There are slips of the tongue, and then there are slips of the mask. What happened on Newsmax this week was the latter. Alina Habba — attorney, surrogate, and ever present defender of Donald Trump — attempted to invoke the legacy of Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson Sr., only to blurt out the name Reggie Jackson, the baseball star. A civil rights giant reduced to a confused talking point by someone who couldn't be bothered to know the difference.

For Black audiences, especially those who lived through the movement Jesse Jackson helped build, this wasn't funny. It was clarifying.

Because this is what happens when our history is treated as a prop — when our leaders are referenced only to score political points, not to honor the movements they led or the sacrifices they made. It's what happens when people who have never marched, never organized, never risked anything for justice try to borrow the moral authority of those who did.

Rev. Jackson's



During a recent Newsmax interview, Habba stated, "I think if you look at polls, Kamala Harris's comments of desperation at Reggie Jackson's funeral, and she didn't even know him. You know, if you look at this, they're reaching so far,"

name carries the weight of Birmingham, Selma, Chicago, and the Rainbow Coalition. It carries the memory of Dr. King's final days. It carries decades of voter registration drives, anti poverty campaigns, and international diplomacy. To confuse him with a baseball player is not merely ignorance — it is a symptom of a political culture that refuses to treat Black struggle as serious, sacred, or worthy of study.

And let's be honest: this wasn't an isolated moment. It fits neatly into a long pattern of commentators and operatives who speak about Black communities without knowing us, invoke our leaders without respecting them, and weaponize our history without understanding its cost.

The insult isn't that Habba misspoke. The in-

sult is that she was so comfortable speaking on national television about a civil rights icon she clearly knew nothing about. That comfort comes from a society that still treats Black history as optional — something you can skim, skip, or butcher without consequence.

But there *is* consequence. Our communities notice. Our elders notice. And NNPA readers, who have carried the memory of Rev. Jackson's work longer and more faithfully than any cable news panel, certainly notice.

If they cannot distinguish between Jesse Jackson and Reggie Jackson, they have no business speaking on our leaders, our movements, or our legacy. And they certainly have no business pretending to speak for us.



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