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Colin Kaepernick completes \$1 million pledge for underserved communities

By Defender News Service



Kaepernick took the stage to thunderous applause on Sunday, December 3, 2017, in Beverly Hills, raising his right fist to the crowd while accepting the Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award. (©Getty Images)

Colin Kaepernick is a man of his word.

On Wednesday, the former NFL quarterback announced that he'd fulfilled his pledge of donating \$1 million of his salary to communities in need. He began the pledge in September 2016, one month after beginning his on-field protests against structural racism and police brutality.

Kaepernick, who is still a free agent after opting out of his San Francisco 49ers contract in March, confirmed the news to fans on Twitter in a short video Wednesday afternoon.

To wrap up his pledge, the 30-year-old asked a number of high-profile athletes and artists to donate \$10,000 to a charity of their choice, which he then matched dollar-for-dollar in what he

called the #10for10 challenge.

Joining Kaepernick in Wednesday's donation was Usher, who pledged \$10,000 to Helping Oppressed Mothers Endure Inc. (or HOME), a Georgia-based advocacy organization for single mothers who are emerging from divorce or domestic violence.

Jesse Williams, Nick Cannon and Steph Curry are among the other stars who joined Kaepernick in the #10for10 challenge, according to CNN.

HOME officials thanked Kaepernick and Usher in a heartfelt Instagram post Wednesday afternoon.

The news comes one day after President Donald Trump took a subtle dig at protesters in the NFL during his State of the Union address Tuesday.

The president's re-

marks came as he was speaking about Preston Sharp, a 12-year-old California boy who started a movement to place flags on the graves of veterans last year. Sharp was a guest of the president and first lady at the address.

"Preston's reverence for those who have served our nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the Pledge of Allegiance, and why we proudly stand for the national anthem," the president told the crowd.

Kaepernick, however, isn't likely to be deterred.

"With or without the NFL's platform, I will continue to work for the people," he said in December, while picking up the 2017 Sports Illustrated Muhammad Ali Legacy Award, "because my platform is the people."

Dodge Criticized for Using King Voiceover in Super Bowl Ad

By Lauren Victoria Burke | NNPA Newswire Contributor

There were ads with Morgan Freeman rapping and ads with babies from around the world and fast cars with singer Steven Tyler. There were ads with medieval themes, magic and song.

Then there was the ad using the words and voice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to sell Dodge Ram sell trucks.

"Everybody can be great," Dr. King said in a speech in 1968, two months before he was murdered. "You only need a heart full of grace; soul generated by love."

The advertisement featured images of football players, cowboys, U.S. troops and first responders as a backdrop to King's voiceover. The advertisement ended with an image of a soldier, a Dodge truck, and the words "Built to Serve."

The commercial for Dodge trucks provoked protest on social media shortly after it aired from

many Super Bowl III viewers. It also induced a reaction tweet from the The King Center and Bernice King, the daughter of the late civil rights leader.

"Neither @TheKingCenter nor @BerniceKing is the entity that approves the use of #MLK's words or imagery for use in merchandise, entertainment (movies, music, artwork, etc) or advertisement, including tonight's @Dodge #SuperBowl commercial," The King Center tweet stated not long after the ad was broadcast.

April 4, 2018 was the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, at the hands of James Earl Ray.

"The worst commercials are those that use icons like Martin Luther King Jr to sell things like a Dodge Ram truck," tweeted Boston Globe Deputy Bureau Chief Matt Viser. He wasn't the only one who noticed.

"Using a 'Martin Luther King' speech and completely taking it OUT OF CONTEXT for a truck commercial is a disgrace," another Twitter user reacted in a typical statement.

Super Bowl advertisements have become an annual obsession as the expensive and targeted marketing to a huge audience has become a place where products are debuted for the first time. Super Bowl ads have also become an annual time to analyze and study the many marketing strategy, as well as the "hits and misses" of the ads seen during the game.

It's likely that the ad featuring King's voice and words will likely be the source of analysis over the coming days. The ad might also reignite discussion on some of the decisions being made by Dexter King and Martin Luther King III regarding the use of their father's image and words.

Ken Chenault Dealt with Crises, Competition as Head of American Express

Approaching Retirement after 17 Successful Years at the Helm

NEW YORK (AP) —

Kenneth Chenault, wearing no sport coat and no tie, with a large cup of tea in front of him, fits an image of a man ready for retirement.

Chenault is days away from stepping down as the chief executive officer and chairman of American Express, the credit card giant and one of the most iconic brands in the country. He will have run American Express for 17 years, guiding the company through the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the global financial crisis and numerous challenges to its position as the go-to payment option for the wealthy and well-traveled.

The son of a dentist from Long Island, New York, who grew up as a Black man during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Chenault never expected to be CEO of a major company, let alone work 37 years at the same one.

"I can honestly say I was approached by bigger companies, moments where people would say 'wow, that's a great opportunity.' But this has been my dream job," Chenault said. He sat down with The Associated Press for his last interview before leaving the company.

Who can blame Chenault, 66, for moving on? His successor as CEO and chairman, Steve Squeri, is well on his way to be trained for the job. Any problems that happened under Chenault's watch, like the loss of a lucrative Costco partnership, have been neatly cleaned up. Since Chenault became CEO in 2001, American Express' annual profits have risen from \$1.31 billion to an adjusted \$5.3 billion, excluding the impact of the new tax law. Sales rose from \$17.71 billion to \$35.58 billion and the stock has more than doubled and is trading at record highs. That said, AmEx shares did

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CORA DAWSON, DECEASED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters

Testamentary on the Estate of Cora Dawson, Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2017, in Cause No. C-1-PB-17-002010, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Deborah Dawson. Claims may be presented in care of the attorneys for the Estate addressed as follows: Estate of Cora Williams, Deceased, c/o Leonard W. Woods, of the law firm Duggins Wren Mann & Romero, LLP, P. O. Box 1149, Austin, Texas 78767-1149. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.



In this Monday, June 7, 2010, file photo, American Express Chairman and CEO Kenneth Chenault speaks during the New York University International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference in New York. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

underperform the overall S&P 500 index, but outperformed other banks.

"I hate to see Ken leave. I mean, he's done a terrific job. His record is really hard to match in corporate America," said Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor, in an interview with the AP. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is the largest shareholder of American Express, owning 17.5 percent of the company.

Under Chenault, American Express has expanded from its well-to-do and corporate expense account customers into more consumer products.

"The Pflugerville Independent School District will open Proposals for: Integrated Pest Management Services On February 23, 2018@ 2:00 p.m. All proposals may be submitted (by mail or hand carry) to: Pflugerville ISD 1401 West Pecan Pflugerville, T 78660 Attn: Paula Bowden

AmEx now markets toward families buying groceries and gasoline an American Express Everyday Card, just as much it markets the Platinum Card toward the jet set who charge six figures a year.

"Ken and his management team have built a terrific business even through a tough competitive environment," said Gordon Smith, who runs the consumer banking division at JPMorgan Chase.



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