



By **John Harris Jr.**
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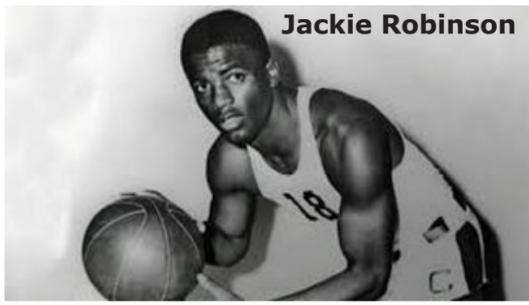
(VILLAGER NEWS) - Yes, it's true. Jackie Robinson, the first Black to play baseball in the Major Leagues, once coached basketball at what is now known as Huston-Tillotson University.

In 1952, Samuel Huston merged with

Baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson once coached Huston-Tillotson basketball team

Tillotson College to become Huston-Tillotson. Thanks to a tip from my wife, I discovered that Robinson, who broke Major League Baseball's color barrier on April 15, 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers, coached what was then known as Samuel Huston College's men's basketball team during the 1944-45 season.

Based on his connection with Rev. Karl Downs, who was Samuel Huston's president from 1943-48, Robinson was



Jackie Robinson

basketball coach that one season along with serving as the school's athletic director and was also an instructor. Downs, who officiated at the wedding of Jackie and Rachel Robinson in 1946, was Robinson's pastor and mentor

growing up in Pasadena, Calif.

What was behind the Robinson-Huston-Tillotson connection?

Robinson was stationed in Fort Hood, about 60 miles north of Austin, where he spent a majority of his leave

time with Downs, a graduate of Anderson High School. After receiving his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1944 after he refused to move to the back of a military bus, Robinson accepted multiple job offers from Downs to be a physical education teacher, athletic director and men's basketball coach at Samuel Huston.

In 1945, Robinson left Samuel Huston to accept a tryout with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League, who

were training in Houston. He was then signed by Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey, who placed Robinson with the club's top minor-league affiliate in 1947.

The date of Robinson's Major League debut is recognized annually as Jackie Robinson by Major League Baseball.

Robinson was elected to Huston-Tillotson's board of regents in 1968 and served until just before his death in 1972.

The Austin Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Participates in a Campus Beautification Project

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Austin Chapter of The Links, Incorporated facilitates targeted leadership and mentoring activities with students at Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Twenty-two students at Betha Sadler Means (YWLA), in grades 6-8, participated in a campus beautification initiative that focused on the prettification of the schools' entrance. The students are members of the Bertha Sadler Means Gamma Sigma

Girl Scouts and Robotics Club. The beautification project was supported by Home Depot; they provided plants and gardening products.

Members of the Links Chapter work in partnership with the school's administration and staff to successfully plan and implement an Umbrella Program identified as Links Improving Minds, Bodies and Souls (LIMBS). The Umbrella Program comprises three tiers of student engagements for fostering academic improve-



Austin Chapter of The Links and Program leaders and volunteers: Jodi Beaubien, Shirley Whalen-Amora, Deborah Agbottah and Shakira Pumphrey

ment, leadership development and social emotional growth. Tier One provides mentoring for academic achievement, leadership and personal development. Tier Two focuses on leadership development for members of the Gamma Sigma Girl Scouts. Tier Three utilizes strength-based leadership of the Austin Chapter of The Links and other sources for providing opportunities for all students to participate in targeted learning through general assembly sessions.



Texas Veterans Commission continues assistance to veterans via virtual meetings

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) values the health and safety of Texas veterans, their families, and spouses. To reduce exposure to the

COVID-19 virus, starting March 19, 2020 services provided by the TVC will be conducted virtually.

A listing of services is provided by city at <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/about/office-locations/>.

www.tvc.texas.gov/about/office-locations/.

Veterans may contact their local TVC representative by phone for Claims, Healthcare and Employment assistance.

TVC Claims Advisors help veterans in filing disability compensation claims with the VA. TVC Health Care Advocates provide assistance to veterans in resolving VA medical care issues

including appointments, medication and treatment. Both TVC Claims and Healthcare staff assist veterans through the VA process, filing paperwork and advocate on behalf of the veteran resolving issues with the VA.

TVC Employment Services offer veterans assistance with resumes, applications, and job interview skills. Additionally, Employment Ser-

vices works with employers to connect them with veteran job seekers.

Other TVC services and programs available to veterans and providers of veterans services include Education, Entrepreneur, Grants, Mental Health and Women Veterans.

Helping veterans starts here. The Texas Veterans Commission advocates for and pro-

vides superior service to veterans that will significantly improve the quality of life for all Texas veterans, their families

and survivors. The TVC assists veterans with receiving their benefits, providing funding to agencies which provide direct services to veterans and administration of the Hazlewood Act education benefits. Learn more at www.tvc.texas.gov.



Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick suggests he will risk dying to save economy

By **Texas Tribune**

(TEXAS TRIBUNE) - Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, chiming in to support President Donald Trump's new focus on the economy over fierce warnings from public health officials, suggested on Fox News on Monday night that he would rather die from the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus than see instability in the American economic system.

"No one reached out to me and said, 'As a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren?' And if that's the exchange, I'm all in," he said. "And that doesn't make me noble or brave or anything like that. "I just think there

are lots of grandparents out there in this country like me ... that what we all care about and what we all love more than anything are those children," he added. "And I want to, you know, live smart and see through this, but I don't want to see the whole country to be sacrificed, and that's what I see."

Patrick is 69, an age that statistically puts him at a higher risk for fatal consequences from the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that people with lung disease, asthma, heart issues, compromised immune systems, obesity, diabetes and liver disease are also at a higher risk of severe complications from the virus.

Patrick's point of view is directly at odds with the messaging of

many public health officials, most prominently Trump administration official Dr. Anthony Fauci. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is one of the chief public advocates for social distancing.

Fauci and others have spent the last several weeks pleading with Americans to stay at home as much as possible and to avoid social interaction as a means to slow the contagion. The aim is to give hospitals time, space and supplies to treat what is becoming an overwhelming influx of patients afflicted with the virus.

In the last month, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has plunged over 9,000 points, and public officials are bracing for a brutal jump in the nation's unemploy-



TEXAS LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK

ment rate as business owners are forced to close up shop and lay off staffers.

Patrick argued that he was not alone in this line of thinking.

"I've talked to hundreds of people ... and just in the last week, and making calls all the time and everyone says the pretty much the same thing, that we can't lose our whole country. We are having an economic

collapse," Patrick added. "I'm also a small businessman. I understand it."

The sentiment matches a push by Trump that began Sunday night and went into a Monday evening news conference in which the president argued the proposed cure — meaning a shutdown of American society and the economy — was worse than the disease.