



# ARIZONA INFORMANT

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## Lifetime Achievement Award Dr. Velma Trayham Honored By Biden

BLACKNEWS.COM – Honoring her remarkable leadership and service, Dr. Velma Trayham, a native of Houston, Texas, has become one of few Black female entrepreneurs to have been awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award by President Joe Biden. The annual awards honor a select few who “exhibit outstanding character, work ethic and dedication to their communities.”

Dr. Trayham is the founder and CEO of Thinkzilla Consulting, one of the nation’s fastest-growing diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting firms, and founder of the Millionaire Mastermind Academy, a leading nonprofit organization that addresses the barriers to economic mobility for women who have been systemically and historically underserved and excluded by providing entrepreneurial training and mentorship programming to help women rise above poverty through empowered entrepreneurship.

The Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award was presented during the Gathering of Queens Economic Empowerment event, hosted by the Millionaire Mastermind Academy in Houston to share new strategies and dynamic leadership principles for success. Recipients of the award must

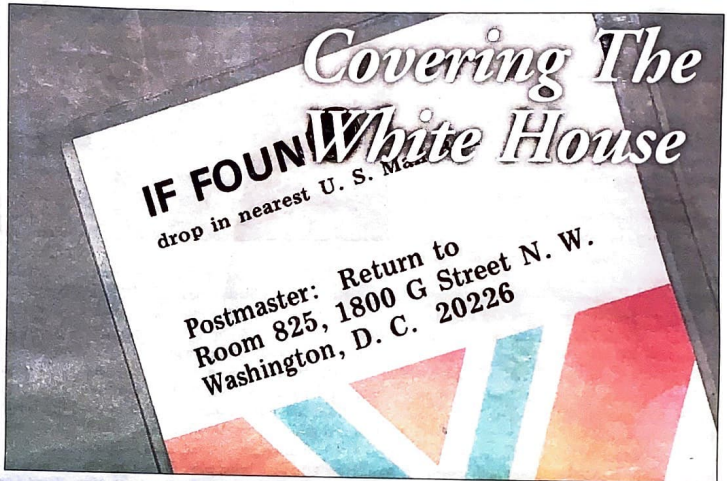
have completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of volunteer service

According to presenter Dr. Verna Caddie, “Dr. Velma received The Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for all of the hard work she does to help so many people change their lives, by ending poverty through entrepreneurship.”

Dr. Trayham was honored with the award based on her career of supporting more than 8,000 women to excel in diverse small businesses while launching a \$500,000 scholarship fund to move women out of poverty through entrepreneurial training and mentorships. Likewise, through Dr. Trayham’s leadership, Thinkzilla has helped more than 200 prominent public and private organizations expand DEI initiatives, enjoy exponential growth and reach new audiences.

“I am passionate about breaking generational curses and equipping others to rise above poverty,” added Dr. Trayham, who is recognized as one of the nation’s top business experts and motivational speakers. “I am also incredibly fortunate to love the work I do, the people I work with, and the communities we serve.”

Learn more at [VelmaTrayham.com](http://VelmaTrayham.com) or [ThinkzillaConsulting.com](http://ThinkzillaConsulting.com).



## A Hard Pass, Finally

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA  
Seventy-two years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt invited Harry S. McAlpin Jr. of the National Negro Publishers Association to cover an Oval Office news conference, and 82-years after the founding of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press can freely cover the White House.

The NNPA has received a hard pass, allowing near-unfettered access to the White House.

Called the ultimate White House credential, the hard pass allows on-demand access to the famed

Pennsylvania Avenue complex. “The National Newspaper Publishers Association’s Senior National Correspondent, Stacy Brown, has once again enabled our national trade association representing the Black Press of America, to make another historic yet contemporary step forward with the official acquisition of the White House hard-pass,” said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

“The hard pass gives the NNPA daily access to the White House,” Chavis remarked.

As a correspondent for the NNPA member newspaper, the Atlanta Dai-

ly World, McAlpin covered his first White House press conference in 1944.

However, the White House Correspondents Association vehemently objected to the African American journalist and routinely blocked him from covering the White House.

President Roosevelt intervened after a group of Black leaders expressed their frustration.

Still, the Association pushed back. “The president could break the color line for his press conferences, but he could not rewrite the WHCA’s membership policies,” George

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## Jan. 6 Hearing Removes Any Doubt About Trump’s Role

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA  
The stunning revelations broadcast during the House Select Committee investigation of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol included the laying out of a scheme by former President Donald Trump to retain power.

While many have long understood that Trump did nothing to stop the deadly riots, the Committee laid bare his scheme that led to the death of at least nine people – including five law enforcement members – and left more than 150 officers injured.

“It was a sophisticated seven-part plan to overturn the presidential election and prevent the transfer of presidential power,” Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the chair of the House committee, remarked during the presentation.

Further, Cheney noted that several GOP members of



Congress pressed Trump for pardons during the insurrection – the inference could explain why many Republicans have remained loyal to the former President and have shown a reluctance to participate in the hearings.

Cheney also reminded the Committee of a tweet sent *continued on page 23*

**THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY: JUN 23 1997**  
“I wish you power that equals your intelligence and your strength. I wish you success that equals your talent and determination...”  
— Betty Shabazz, wife of Malcolm X, dies at 61 in New York three weeks after receiving burns over 80 percent of her body.





BlockTec Founders Josh Hedeby (far right) and Trent Manager (second from left) being presented check from Patricia Crenshaw, CEO, Pacific SW Minority Supplier Development Council and Summer Faussette, National African American Business Development Manager, Comerica Bank. BLOCKTEC

## New Blockchain Firm Gets MBE Certification

Emerging and newly formed blockchain solutions provider BlockTec, LLC, is pleased to announce that it has recently achieved certification as a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) from the Pacific Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (PSWMSDC). The firm was evaluated to meet all the necessary criteria to be included among the providers in the NMSDC database. In addition, during the PSWMSDC Procurement Conference + Business Opportunity Fair, BlockTec co-founders Joshua Hedeby and Trent Manager placed second in the business pitch competition (judged by a panel of experienced business leaders), winning a financial prize for their clear articulation of their business model.

Formed in January 2022 and initially incubated by longtime IT/cybersecurity application provider Intertec International, BlockTec's Hedeby and Manager have been busily meeting with a variety of companies exploring blockchain applicability for their businesses — especially in the financial services and IT sectors.

Blocktec is also under consideration by other leading technology companies for partnership and projects, such as FPT Software. It is

also engaging with the ASU NMSDC MBE Blockchain Research Lab to increase its ability to expand its services and overall competencies. BlockTec is also currently training coders and development teams based in Costa Rica and Colombia through service agreements with incubator Intertec International.

Blocktec's service offerings include:

- Blockchain Training (Developer and Executive Level)
- Traditional IT Support Value-Added Reseller (Onshore/Nearshore/Offshore)
- Solidity and Smart Contract Development
- Blockchain System Migration
- DeFi/NFT/ICO Exchange Development
- Smart Contract and Software Security Audits
- Blockchain Architect/Consulting

For companies or enterprises seeking to gain competitive advantage by upskilling their executive teams regarding how blockchain technology can be integrated into their businesses visit [blocktec.us](http://blocktec.us) to schedule a no-obligation briefing session with Joshua Hedeby (CEO/CFO; [josh@blocktec.us](mailto:josh@blocktec.us)) and/or Trent Manager (CTO; [trent@blocktec.us](mailto:trent@blocktec.us)).

### AARP

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• Political division in the country is also a concern among Black women voters age 50 and over, and they are unimpressed with the job elected officials are doing on a range of issues, including their dominant concern of rising prices.

• Significant majorities give elected officials D/F grades on issues, including prices rising faster than income (80%), the wage gap between the rich and poor (77%), crime (76%), race relations (72%), and the costs of health care and prescription drugs (70%).

A recent focus group hosted by AARP with Black women 50 and over also shows they are very worried about the economy and feel unheard.

Most see the country as in trouble, and many are concerned about financial pressures, age discrimination, and the dangers facing younger generations, like racial profiling.

Nearly every Black woman said they feel ignored by politicians today, and many de-

scribed themselves as "invisible" at work and in public life.

The AARP national survey was conducted by phone and online from February 18 to March 3, 2022, using NORC's Foresight 50+ Panel, supplemented with interviews from non-probability panels.

The final poll included 1,836 voters age 50 and over who are likely to vote in 2022, with samples of Black voters, Hispanic/Latino voters, Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander voters as well as American Indian/Alaska Native voters.

The survey results represent a sample of 984 women voters age 50 and over with 171 Black women. Study margin of error: +/- 3.29%.

The focus group was conducted May 24, 2022, by a bipartisan team of pollsters: GBAO, Echelon Insights, Lake Research Partners, and Bellwether Research. The group included nine participants, all Black women aged 50 and over.

Qualitative research findings are directional and not projectable onto population at large.

VIRGINIA G. PIPER CHARITABLE TRUST

# Piper Fellowship

◀ [pie-per-fel-oh-ship] noun

1. An opportunity for nonprofit leaders to reach, retool, and revitalize.
2. A Piper Fellowship can be transformational for both the leader and the nonprofit organization.

### Sentence:

"It gave me perspective; my Piper Fellowship was life-changing."



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 PIPER FELLOWS**

Learn more at [pipertrust.org/piperfellows](http://pipertrust.org/piperfellows)