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Parents and other loved ones of murder victims gather Friday at City Hall to remember those lost to violence. The rally was held in partnership with the Peace Not Guns Faith-Based Coalition. —TRIBUNE PHOTO/ABDUL R. SULAYMAN

## Murder victims' parents rally for peace, justice

Brian Saunders  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Yullio Robbins longed for a son. She had five daughters and prayed to have a boy. Finally, she had her first son, James Walke III. But on Friday, Robbins stood in front of a crowd at City Hall wearing a black shirt memorializing Walke. On Feb. 23, 2016, her son was heading out of the house, but for some reason, he came back twice to tell his mom bye, and he loved her. He was killed that day in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

"I wear this shirt, not with pride. I wear it because my heart aches for my son. He was murdered," Robbins said. "He (the shooter) stood over top of



Sonya Dixon speaks at Friday's rally at City Hall about losing two of her grandsons, Zakiyy Allford and Kenyon Allford, to violence and how their cases remain unsolved. —TRIBUNE PHOTO/ABDUL R. SULAYMAN

my baby, shot 12 bullets. I got a terrible call at 1:30 in the afternoon," she said.

Walke, 28 at the time of his death, left behind a pair of sons who are now 15 and

14 years old, and nobody has solved his murder five years later.

"We've got to do something," Robbins said. "I'm not blaming anybody but

the communities. I'm not blaming the police. Us as communities need to get together. We need to go out into the neighborhoods. I'm out in the neighborhoods all the time, but I need help," she said.

Stanley Crawford remembers every excruciating detail from the morning of Sept. 8, 2018, when his daughter frantically called him and said his son William had been shot.

"I see my son's blood from the gunshot to his right temple, his right cheek and chest, splattered on the ground," Crawford said.

William was 35 and his killer was never arrested.

VICTIMS » 4A

## Event offers high-schoolers a look at dozens of HBCUs

Chanel Hill  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

High school students who are interested in attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) will have the opportunity to experience the academic offerings, history and pride of the colleges and universities through a week-long series of events.

HBCU week, which runs from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, will have events virtually and in-person in Wilmington, Delaware.

Twenty HBCUs will participate in events in-person and 54 HBCUs will participate virtually. There are 104 HBCUs nationwide.

"Our goal with HBCU week is to provide Black and Brown students the chance to experience what life is like at an HBCU, a clear path to enrollment, scholarships and the connections to confidently own their power throughout their careers," said Ashley Christopher, founder and CEO of the HBCU Week Foundation Inc.



A student holds an acceptance letter from Delaware State University at a previous HBCU Week college fair. —SUBMITTED PHOTO

"As a double HBCU alumna, I know firsthand that culture and community played an integral part in growing confidence and helped me find and amplify my voice as a Black woman," she added.

Christopher, who is an alumna of Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., came up with the idea of an HBCU

event for students after a conversation with Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki.

"In 2017, I was employed under Mayor Mike," Christopher said. "He asked me to come up with some programming for Wilmington's most underserved communities. I immediately thought of HBCUs."

"We started out with just one event, which was the HBCU college fair," she

added. "The success of the college fair eventually led to us having an HBCU Week. While the program is no longer under the mayor's office and is now under my nonprofit, I'm grateful to Mayor Mike for supporting my vision for day one."

Among the many highlights of the week is the in-person and virtual 5th

HBCU » 4A

## Haitians see racist history in treatment of migrants

U.S. immigration policies have long been anti-Black, they say

Aaron Morrison  
Astrid Galvan  
Jasen Lo

The images — men on horseback with long reins, corralling Haitian asylum seekers trying to cross into the U.S. from Mexico — provoked an outcry. But to many Haitians and Black Americans, they're merely confirmation of a deeply held belief:

U.S. immigration policies, they say, are and have long been anti-Black.

The Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants, they say, is just the latest in a long history of discriminatory U.S. policies and of indignities faced by Black people, sparking new anger among Haitian Americans, Black immigrant advocates and civil rights leaders.

They point to immigration data that indicate Haitians and other Black migrants routinely face

structural barriers to legally entering or living in the U.S. — and often endure disproportionate contact with the American criminal legal system that can jeopardize their residency or hasten their deportation.

Haitians, in particular, are granted asylum at the lowest rate of any nationality with consistently high numbers of asylum seekers, according to an analysis of data by The Associated Press.

"Black immigrants live at the intersection of race and immigration and, for too long, have fallen through the cracks of red tape and legal loopholes," said Yoliswa Cele, director of narrative and media at the UndocuBlack Network, a national advocacy organization for currently and formerly undocumented Black people.

HAITIANS » 5A

## Stanford to be honored by Points of Light

Ayana Jones  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

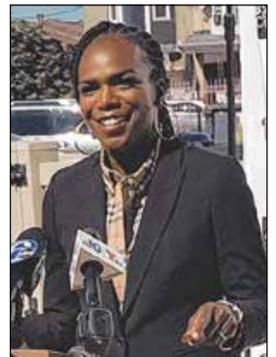
Dr. Ala Stanford, founder of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium, is receiving more national recognition for her commitment to serving Philadelphia's most vulnerable populations during the coronavirus pandemic.

Stanford will be honored with The George H.W. Bush Points of Light Award during a live event Tuesday at New York's Cipriani's.

"The Points of Light organization was founded by President George H. Bush Sr. and his description of Points of Light were volunteer individuals and organizations all across our nation that were giving of their service to make this world literally a better place," Stanford said during a news conference Friday at Deliverance Evangelistic Church in North Philadelphia.

"It's truly an honor to be able to be alongside the other awardees. I'm excited and humbled and it forces us to pause because we are continually working and allows us to acknowledge the work we do as we serve others," she said.

Stanford will join Hugh Evans, co-founder and



Dr. Ala Stanford speaks about being recognized by Points of Light Friday at Deliverance Evangelistic Church in North Philadelphia. —TRIBUNE PHOTO/AYANA JONES

CEO of Global Citizen; Francine A. LeFrak, founder of the Francine A. LeFrak Foundation and the Same Sky Foundation Fund; and Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in being honored by the Points of Light. The event will be hosted by ABC Live anchor Linsey Davis and will feature appearances by Dr. Anthony Fauci, John Legend, Dana Perino and Usher Raymond.

"Points of Light is honored to recognize the impact of Dr. Ala Stanford, her leadership, vision and tireless

STANFORD » 4A

