

Still Serving the Community
Since 1957

Ray Gibson was born in Tacoma in 1899 and graduated from Stadium High School in 1917. He went to work for North Coast Busline. It later became Greyhound, from which he retired in 1964 as their #1 mechanic.

Dr. Helen Stafford in her remarks at a surprise birthday retirement party given in **Ray's** honor stated that **"There are families here in Tacoma that owe an indebtedness to Ray Gibson, for it was he who kept them eating during the Depression."** That was Uncle Ray – always looking out for the other fellow.

POPS was a charter member of the Caballeros Club. He joined for the purpose of helping us younger fellows obtain that which we have now. He was chairman of the Executive Board for 15 years and Club Manager for 11.

Uncle Ray was not only generous but his expertise, kind heart and ability to work with everyone played a major role in the continuous existence of this organization both morally and financially.

Ray passed away on April 10, 1974 here in his second home, **The Club**.

On April 17 a resolution was unanimously passed to add the words **Ray Gibson** to the Caballeros Club. Yes, it surely was his Club, for he worked hard here for all of us.

Ray, Gib, Pops, Uncle Ray, (he had many endearing names) was a mentor to many of us and a friend to all.

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*Reflection written by member Sidney A. Breckenridge;  
 published in the Caballeros Club's 50th Anniversary Souvenir Journal.*  
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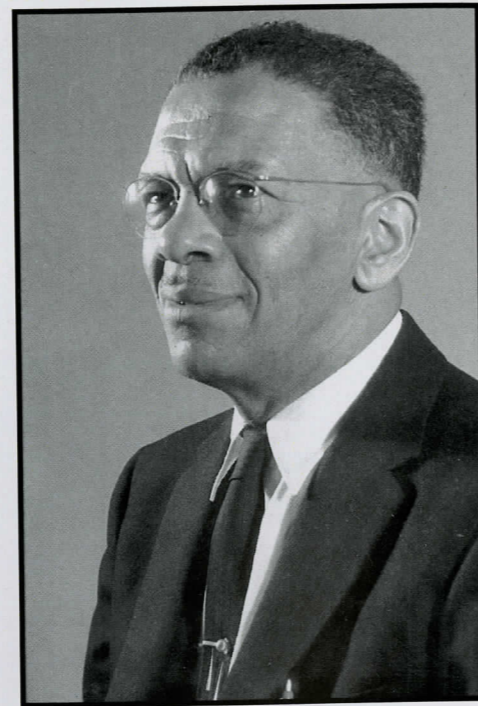
In the 15 years since the 50th Anniversary Celebration the Club has persevered. There have been some turbulent times, but many graceful moments of friendship and camaraderie. **Do you remember** being in the room when we celebrated (twice) the election of Barack Obama to be President of the United States? **Do you remember** being in the room and experiencing the sadness of the Trump victory?

We have mourned together and celebrated together. Shared birthday joys, and remembered too many deceased friends. **And we have continued to grow together.** We are in the midst of a membership boom, showing that the value we bring to the community is being recognized. May we forever strive to maintain the spirit of community and generosity of our founders. If we do so we will thrive long into the future.



Bicycles awaiting new owners at annual Christmas Party

Scholarship recipients



History of Ray Gibson Caballeros Club – "Still Serving Since 1957"

"Lest We Forget Those Who Came Before Us And All They Have Done To Make The Caballeros What It Is Today!"

In the fall of 1956, George A. Strickland and Howard Woods met to discuss the possibility of forming a private, community-based organization with unlimited membership for social purposes. They were aware that this idea had been tried before and failed, so they shaped their dream organization to accommodate the needs of a community interested in a variety of social and educational activities. They envisioned a club which would be open to the general public, a facility with space allocated for conference, dancing, dining, and meeting rooms for other recreational activities.

Incorporated into their long range planning was the acquisition of a building that would eventually be "Owned by the Members." They became so obsessed with their idea that they decided to transform it into reality. Thus, George A. Strickland and Howard Woods became the founders of the Caballeros Club. They contacted several men they thought would be interested in their project and held their first formal meeting in January 1957. This meeting resulted in the following men being elected as the first officers: Author Fox, President; Howard Woods, Vice President; Sidney Breckenridge, Recording Secretary; John Harp-er, Corresponding Secretary; and Junior Collins, Treasurer.

During the first year, meetings were held in the home of the members. However, increasing membership made it necessary to find larger accommodations. A lease with the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge located on the corner of 17th and "K" Street filled the need for the semi-monthly meetings.

In February 1957, leadership began to formulate Bylaws, determine the number and purposed standing committees, seek additional members, plan and sponsor its first annual dance (which was held May 31, 1957 at The Top of The Ocean). This was a "Landmark Social Event" in Tacoma, as African Americans had not been allowed to rent this space. Also, during this period the gradually expanding group elected its Executive Board, selecting Ray Gibson as the Chairman, with Horace Robinson, Charles Hampson, Charles Stubblefield, and George Strickland selected as members.

In 1959, the Club became incorporated and moved into a new facility on the northeast corner of 17th and Tacoma Avenue; which was the first attempt to have a place called "home." The Executive Board began the process of developing a legal structure for the organization. The services of Judge Elizabeth Shakleford were obtained and based on her advice, the Executive Board was able to develop the charter under which the club still operates.

A debt of gratitude continues to be extended to Charles Stubblefield and Ray Gibson who were responsible for acquiring the current site in 1962 – a small house at 1516 South 28th Street, which was a small home for years.

Under the skilled guidance of A. O. Boddie with the theme "You Got A Hammer, I Got A Saw," the inside of the building was remodeled and we found ourselves open for business in October 1972.

"Members stepped forward and mortgaged their homes to obtain adequate funds to completely renovate and expand the property resulting in the facility that we enjoy today." The forty-four thousand dollar note was paid off in just four short years. These committed, courageous men included the following:

Arthur Fox	Charles Horne	Charles James	Charles Owens	Edward Claxton	Robert Morris	James Kors
Ernest Edenwood	Hardy Crisp	Herbert Palm	James Burnett	Sidney Breckenridge	Vollie Johnson	
James Watson	John Webb	Louis Bazar	Paul Johnson	Robert H. McConnel	Wilmer Catley	

The surviving members who remain with the Caballeros Club today are: **Sidney Breckenridge** and **Vollie Johnson**.

Ray Gibson played a major role in the continuous existence of this organization both morally and financially. He chaired the Executive Committee for 15 years, and served as Club Manager for eleven (11) years. On April 10, 1974, Ray Gibson passed away here at the Caballeros Club. Within a week, a resolution was passed "unanimously" to add the words, "Ray Gibson's" to the Caballeros Club.

In 1989, the Caballeros Ladies Auxiliary was formed during the presidency of George Turner. The Auxiliary was his "Brain-child" and was an integral branch of the organization during its existence. In October of 1994, a new chapter was added to the history of the club when the first women were elected as members. They were:

Anita Polk Bonnie Pinckney Debora Porter Theresa Bennett Dr. Cynthia Jones Karen Tillis Leveria Scott

Yet another chapter was added in March of 1998 due to the untimely death of the President, Eugene Ellis. Vice President Bonnie Pinckney became President. She was elected to the office in 1999. During this period, Dr. Cynthia Jones served as Chair of the Executive Board, Theresa Bennett served as Treasurer, and Jo Ann Taylor served as Bar Manager.

Thirty-one (31) men and two (2) women have served one or more terms as President of the Club, each making his or her footprints based on the annual goals of the membership. Because of the charter, the general direction of the club remains that of operating a facility to "Promote Entertainment" for members and their guests and to support and "Implement Projects" to benefit the community including Educational, Charitable, and Special Projects.

We can look back over the past Sixty-Five (65) years of "Community Involvement" and proudly say, "We Have Made a Difference," evidenced by the gifts presented at the Annual Kids' Christmas Party, and Educational Scholarships awarded to African American High School Seniors.

We serve as a venue for other social clubs to have their functions. Social activities include the extremely competitive Pinochle/Domino/Spades games, weekly social events, summertime "Bring Your Own Meat" evenings and camaraderie.

There is much more history to this wonderful Club, this is just a summary. The members of Ray Gibson's Caballeros Club acknowledge and thank the entire community for its continued support and look forward to "Partnership" during the future anniversaries, and throughout the coming years.

If you are not a member of this wonderful Club, we invite you to join us. You too can be involved in continuing to make history at Caballeros Club.



Happy 65th Anniversary Ray Gibson Caballeros Club!

Christel, the First Lady,
and I Proudly Serve our
Club, Members, Guests, and
(City of Destiny) Tacoma.

Timothy A. Person; President
Ray Gibson Caballeros Club



Lola

has been
a mainstay
at the Cab
for years.



Second to none in dedication and
service to our Club, as recording secretary,
she is one of the longest serving officers in the
Club's history. Lola has been a blessing to us all.

Thank You Lola!



Congratulations
To President Timothy Person
and
The Members of Ray Gibson Caballeros Club
on your
65th Anniversary
(of community service)

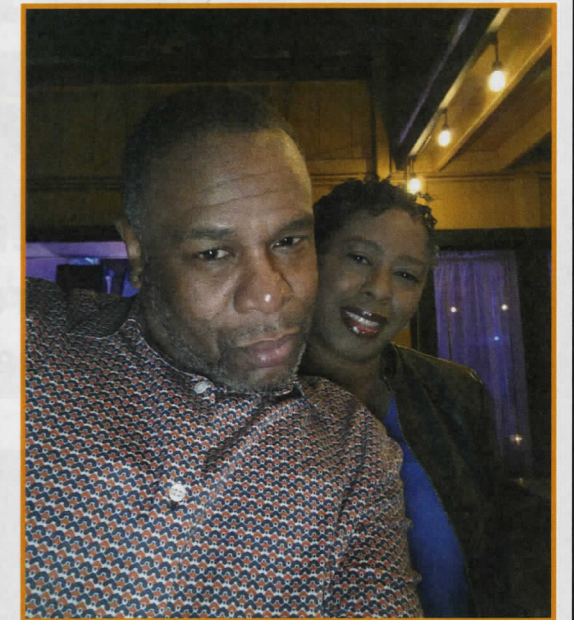


In Loving Memory of
Gold Card Member Alphonse Johnson Sr.
(member 1967–2021)

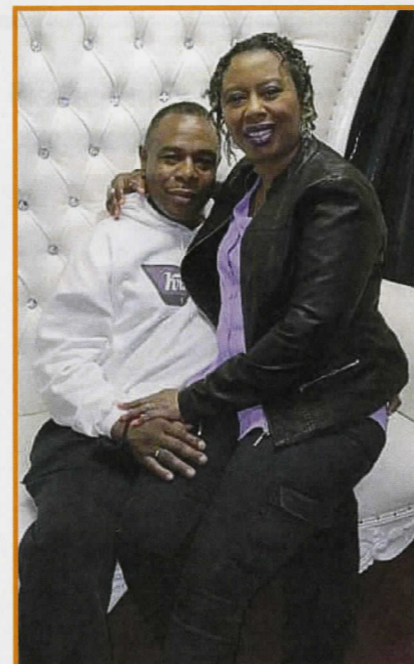
“Gone But Not Forgotten”

Love Forever – Mrs. Louise Johnson

Congratulations to the
Ray Gibson Club
Great Times



at the



Caballeros

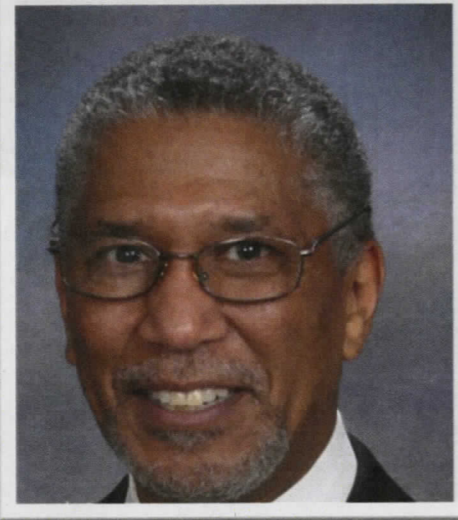
Vince and Denise

CONGRATULATION



RAY GIBSON CABALLEROS CLUB

on 65 years of being The Premier Private Club
for Black and Brown people particularly and
friends as a whole



Lester L. Dickson

A Member and Supporter since 1984

The leadership and members of the past set the
standards for now and the future.

**Continue to be a beacon in the
Pacific Northwest**

**Congratulations to the
Ray Gibson Caballero's Club
on your 65th Anniversary**

**In memory of David Ware
(long tall Texan)**

Remembering and honoring David Ware
by celebrating "Juneteenth" every year



at the
Caballeros
Club



Dolores Ware (Dee)

**Congratulations Ray Gibson's
Caballeros Club
on 65th Anniversary!**



Nancy Hollis
MANAGING BROKER

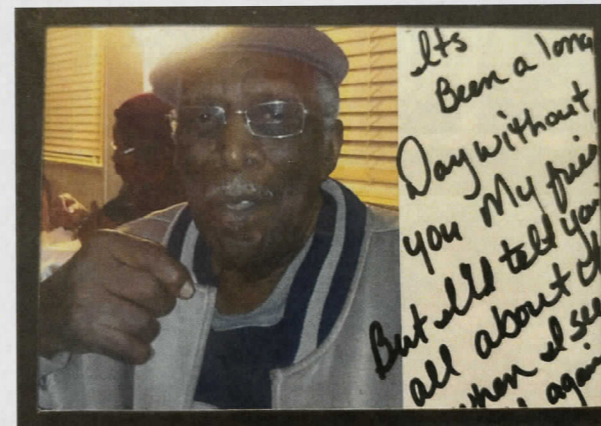
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BUYING OR SELLING

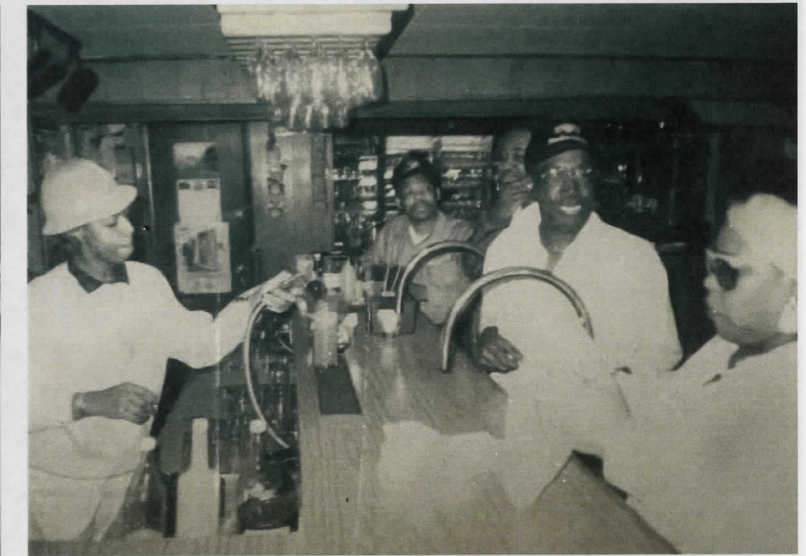
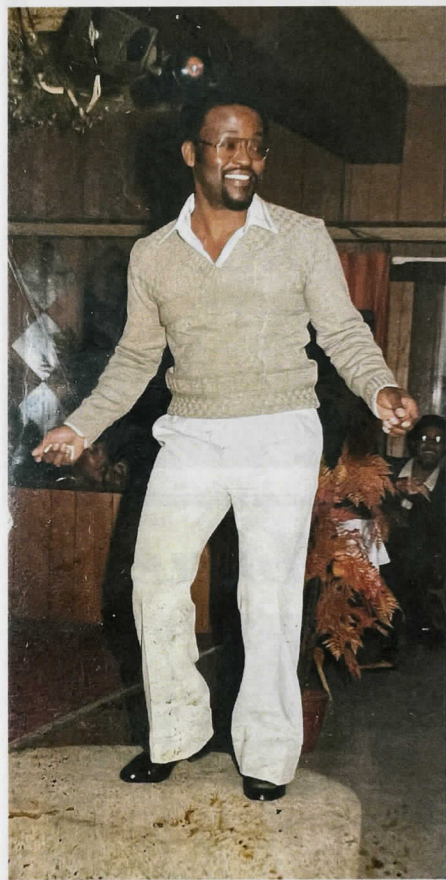
(206) 705-3849 Direct
NancyHollis.com
halladylc@gmail.com

Contact me today if you have any real estate questions. I'm here for you!



Please Enjoy The Following *Classic Caballeros Moments*

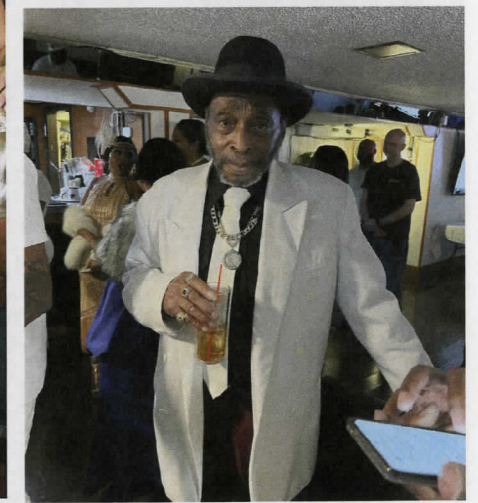


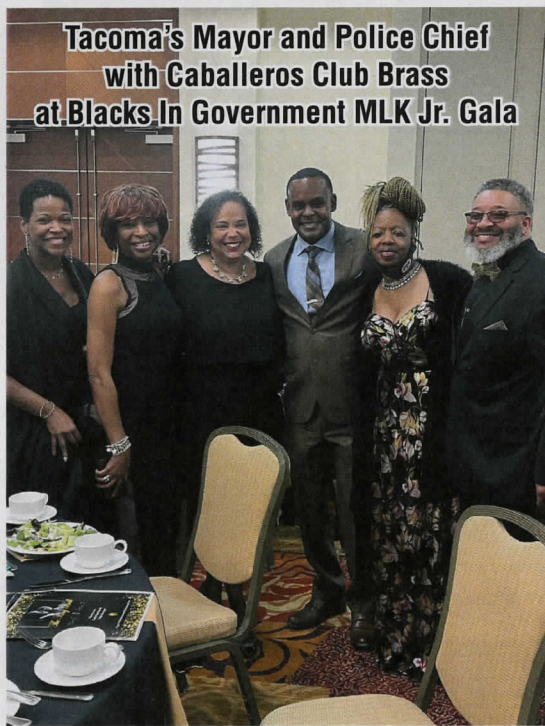






Ray Gibson's Caballeros Club







JUNETEENTH





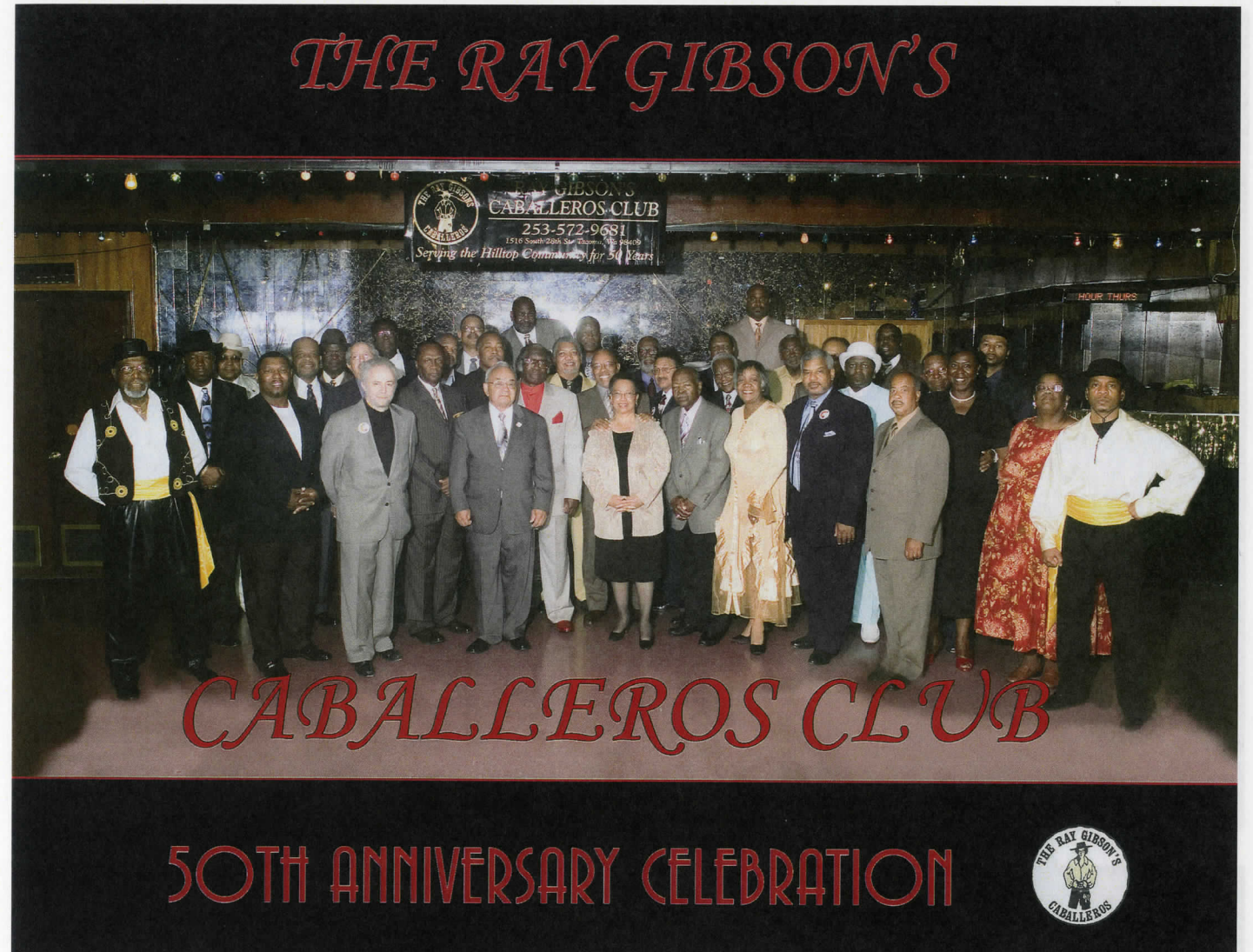
Christmastime at the Club



*Ray Gibsons Caballeros Club Members
in attendance on Saturday, December 21, 2007 at*



the Club's 50th Anniversary Christmas Party



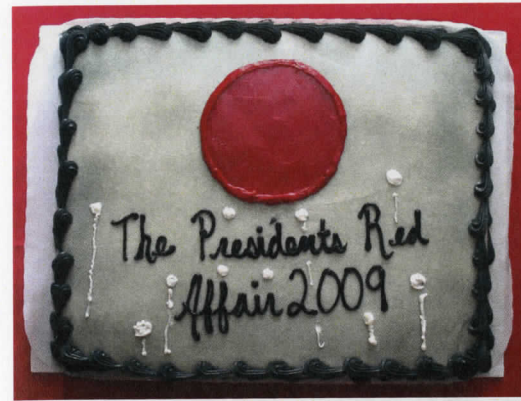
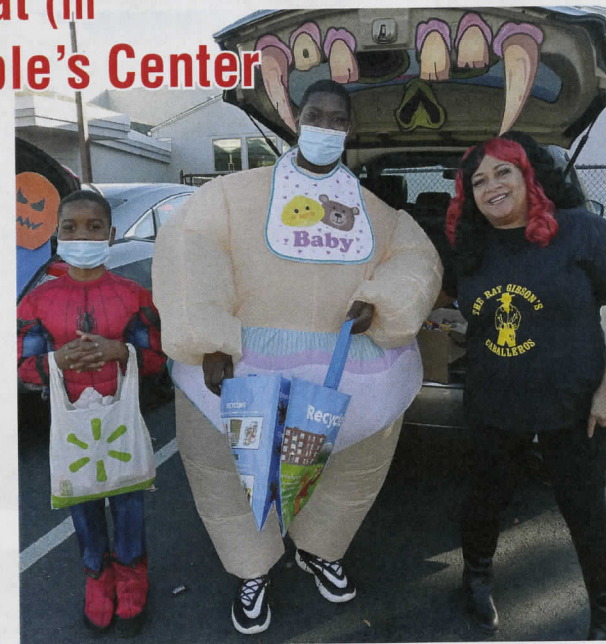


\$ \$ \$ \$
At the Cab Birthdays
Mean Money



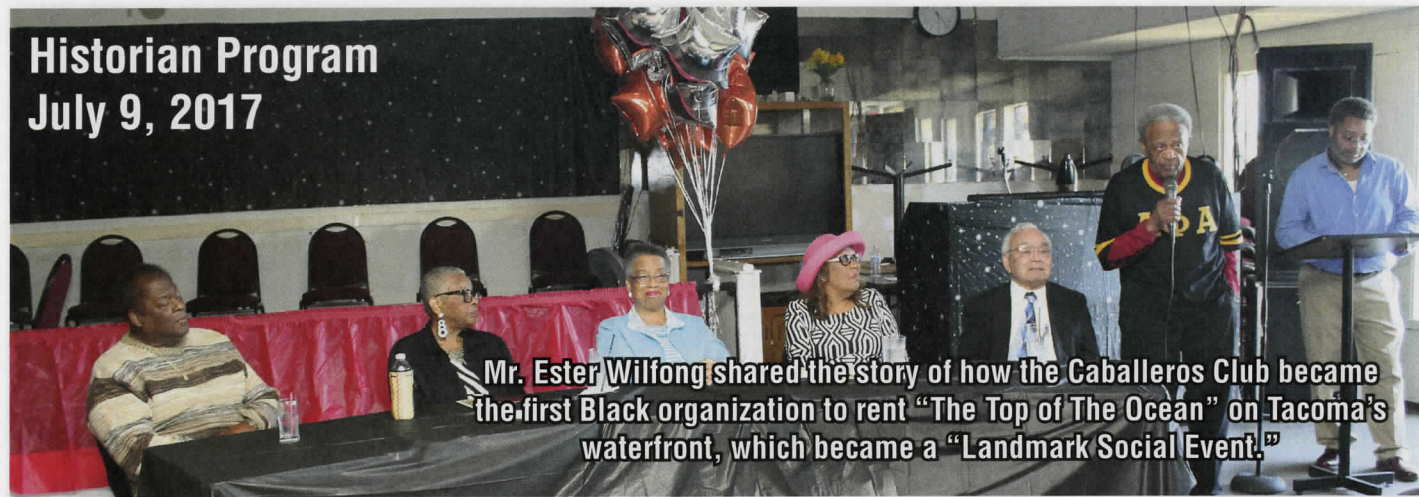


Trunk or Treat (in association with) People's Center

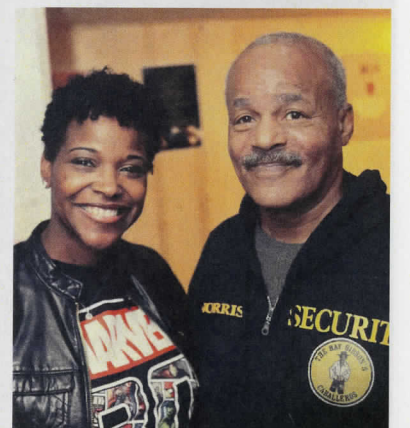




**Historian Program
July 9, 2017**



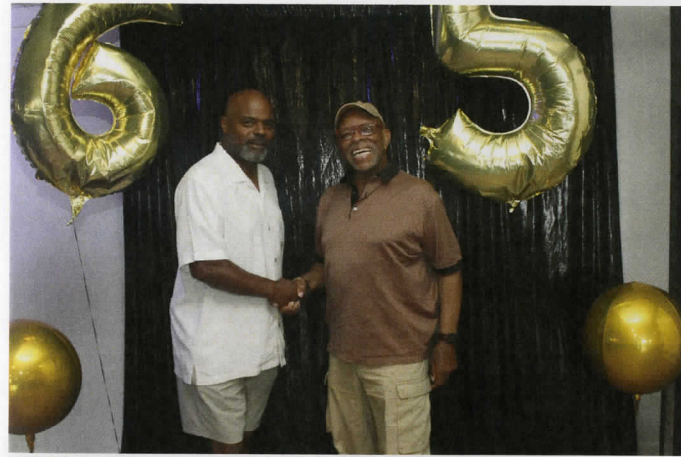
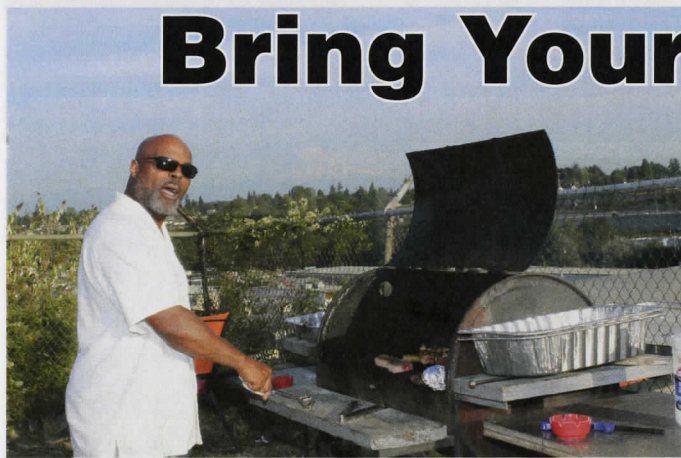
Mr. Ester Wilfong shared the story of how the Caballeros Club became the first Black organization to rent "The Top of The Ocean" on Tacoma's waterfront, which became a "Landmark Social Event."

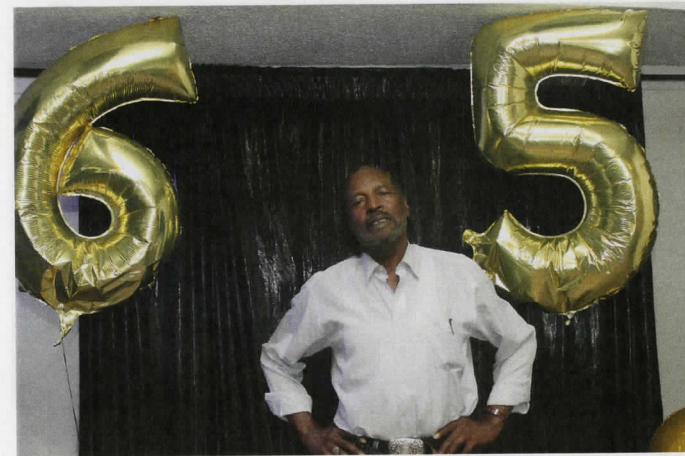




Masking
During the
Covid
Pandemic







SOME OF OUR RECENT NEW MEMBERS



Deceased List
in 50th Anniversary Book

James Aldrick
Sylvester Armstrong
Leonard Baldwin
James Barnett
Wilbur Bird
Peter Betis
Alfred Black
Don Bowling
Danny Bradley
Edgar Brewer
Robert Brush
Robert Callaway
Wilmer Catley
Frank Cheathbeem
Edward Claxton
Julius Colder
William Earl Crawford
Walter Dove
George Durham
Curtis Dudley
Eugene Ellison
Arthur Fox
Vernell Garrett
Vernon Garrett
Ray Gibson
Morgan Giles

Hershel Gill
Emanuel Glover
Arther Grumell
Ray Hackett
Charles Hampton
Herbert Handy
Al Harden
Baston Hooper
Rutac Jack
Albert Jackson
Arstead Jackson
Brodus Jackson
Frank Johnson
Freddie Johnson
Henry Johnson
Jim Kors
Fred Lackland
James Jaskey
Pete Lauderdale
Willie Long
Hallie Matthews
William Maxwell
Jodie Mcracken
Bob Milligan
Robert Morris
Chuck Owens

Hebert Palms
Nathaniel Patterson
Albert Phillip
George Pitts
Eddie Polk
Charles Powell
William Powell
Horace Robinson
Fredrick Ross
Robert Simmons
Edmond Smith
Willie Solitaire
James Sorrell
Luther Staten
Charles Stubblefield
Joann Taylor
George Turner
Preston Ward
John Webb Sr.
James Wesley
Johnny Weir
Henry Williams
Maurice Williams
Thomas Williams
Walt Williams
Howard Woods

Deceased since 50th Anniversary

Carl Brown
Tomas Cosey
Rocky Dallas
Frank Erison III
David Gill
Richard Gill

Harold G. Moss
Alphonse Johnson
Charles G. Jones
Tee Little
Gary Mason Sr.
Harold Phillips

P. J. Price
Joseph Smith (Sugar Bear)
Karen Tillis
Esther Wilfong
Ed Williams MD
Woody Woodruff



2022 Officers

President – Timothy A. Person
Vice President – Tunya Johnson
Recording Secretary – Vacant
Corresponding Secretary – Vacant
Financial Secretary – Yvette Smith
Treasurer – Diane Williams
Chairman – Vincent Jackson
Position #2 – Roy Fletcher
Position #3 – James France
Position #4 – Sandra Daniels
Position #5 – Michelle Malmoe