

The Treasure Chest of Black History

Philadelphia Tribune Black History Luncheon

Michael Rashid - March 6, 2014

Approximately 1-2 minutes

(To host). Thank you.

Thank you all. I'm very happy to be here. Very excited to be in such prolific company. I won't take long, because I know between the cold, and the rain, and the snow, you all may just want to skip to the lunch and award presentation. But I will just take a few minutes to talk about the *Tribune*, and its marathon coverage of Black History for more than a century.

No other city in the United States has more historical significance than Philadelphia. I'm not originally from here, but I can admit that fact. It has been said that no other city is as tough. Has as much heart. Fights more. Loves more. Or is as loyal as she is brave. Now, *those* things may be debatable, but I've seen a bit of it all since making Philly my home 20 years ago.

One thing that is for *certain*, is the remarkable recording of African-American stories by the *Philadelphia Tribune*. It's chronicling of black history – under the weight of segregation, through the height of discrimination, over the years of fighting, to now – at a time when blacks in America are leading more than in any other wealthy nation in the world; the *Tribune*, has been there to cover it all.

That dedication to telling our stories is what brings us here today. And I feel very privileged to be in the company of everyone here, especially the honorees: Dr. Edward S. Cooper and Lois Fernandez, and State Rep. Louise Bishop.

These are great people whose contributions are deposits in the treasure chest of black history. Their stories will continue to be told and inspire generations to come. And for that reason, it is no surprise they are being honored by the *Tribune*.

Though we celebrate black history in February – well, in this case March – we know that our history is *alive* all year long. It breathes and it grows. Sometimes quietly and sometimes with thunder. So let's enjoy this moment and keep working toward a better future, a future full of strength and contribution.

Thank you so much for giving me a few minutes of your time.