

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation.

SEIU African American Leaders in Labor

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of
September, 1862, an Act of Congress
was passed by the President of the United States
containing, among other things, the following,
to wit:

WALTER BACKSTROM
RODERICK BASHIR
BARBARA CALHOUN
FAYE CHILDS
WILLIAM (BILL) FLETCHER, JR.
PATRICIA A. FORD
WILLIE HAMPTON
LADI MASHOOD OLADIPO HAROONA, MD
JOHN ("JJ") JOHNSON
HERBERT BERNARD LOFTON
GLORIA MARIGNY
OPHELIA MCFADDEN
ARLINE NEAL
PETER J. OTTLEY
RICHARD PRICE
WILLIE PRICE
CARNELL (SONNY) REED
CECIL WARD
SHIRLEY WARE
THOMAS GRAYSON YOUNG

Written and edited by Patricia Ford, SEIU Executive Vice President, retired

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WALTER BACKSTROM

1928 - 2011
GENERAL MANAGER SEIU Local 347

Walter Backstrom was born in Water Valley, MS. in 1928. He moved to Los Angeles, CA with his family in 1938, settling near Central Avenue. He attended public schools, graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and is an Army veteran of World War II.

Backstrom worked as a refuse collector for the City of Los Angeles before the advent of automation. He became involved in his union, dependably serving as a shop steward and worked tirelessly to organize city employees at a time when public sector unions did not have the right to collectively bargain. His union activism led to work as a field representative at Local 347 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and would later become General Manager of Local 347, building the local from the back of a trash truck. He also served on the SEIU International Executive Board.



In the early 1960's Backstrom organized African American churches, community organizations and businesses to protest the City of Los Angeles' policy of hiring retired police officers with no experience in trash collection for supervisory positions in the Department of Sanitation, while prohibiting existing employees from applying.

He fought tirelessly for the rights of public employees to collectively bargain over wages, hours and working conditions, negotiating the first "Employee Contract" in the history of the City of Los Angeles. Backstrom was also in the forefront of negotiating equal pay for women when he successfully negotiated the single classification of Traffic Officer with the City of Los Angeles, combining the predominately male classification of directing traffic, whom were paid more, with the predominately female position of meter maids, ultimately eliminating the disparity in wages.

After his retirement from Local 347, SEIU beckoned Backstrom to rejoin the SEIU family as Executive Director of SEIU Local 99. He served on the Los Angeles Education Alliance for Restructuring Now (LEARN), a major reform movement from 1992-1995. He also served as founding member of the advisory board for the Labor Union Center at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

RODERICK BASHIR

1957 -

Rod moved to Chicago, IL in 1975. He graduated from Howard School of Academics/Technology in 1975. Rod earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Illinois State University in 1979 and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University, class of 1983.



Rod served as Vice President for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1 in Chicago, Illinois. Rod joined the staff of SEIU in 1985 and was elected by the membership to the position of Vice President in 1999. After 27 years of service, he retired from SEIU in August 2012.

In addition to Vice President of his local, Rod served in a number of other positions during his tenure. He was Director of the Industrial and Allied Division, Assistant to the President and Vice President and Director of Human Resources. Rod also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Health Services, Inc. for twelve years.

Even after retirement, Rod remains active in his union and carries a multitude of responsibilities. He serves as a Board member of the SEIU National Industry Pension Fund and two terms as Voting Director of the International Foundation of Employees Benefits Plans. He is also a member of the Investment Committee and former member of the Financial Review Committee. Recently, Rod was re-elected to serve on the International Foundation Voting Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2014.

In 2009, Rod was appointed by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to the Illinois Finance Authority where he served for one year and has recently been reappointed by the Governor to the Illinois State Board of Investment where he serves as Vice Chair and member of the Emerging Managers and Investment Committees.

2009 also marked a milestone in Rod's career when he was elected President of the Service Employees International Union Caucus for people of African Descent (AFRAM) and served in that capacity until 2013. He also served two terms as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Hazel Crest, Illinois and served as Mayor Pro Tempore until 2015.

Rod earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Illinois State University and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University.

BARBARA CALHOUN

1950 -

Born in 1950, Barbara Calhoun is a native Californian. Educated in Los Angeles public schools, Calhoun studied Labor Law at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Calhoun combined that knowledge with her activism when she became active in her union SEIU Local 347.

Calhoun served as President of SEIU Local 347 in the early 2000's, the first woman to do so in the history of that local. Calhoun did not let her activism stop there, she went on to become Chairperson of the SEIU Western Region Women's Caucus, providing advocacy and addressing the issues important to working women.

Calhoun served as a Traffic Officer for the City of Los Angeles for 21 years.

She extended her public service when elected in 2001 to the Compton Unified School District (CUSD) Board of Trustees for a two-year term. During her tenure on the CUSD Board, Calhoun was instrumental in securing construction of the first new elementary school in Compton in 35 years, the William Jefferson Clinton Elementary School. Calhoun's determination was also key to the passage of a Bond Measure which provided \$80 million dollars to renovate Compton's schools and restore CUSD to full local governance.

In 2003, Calhoun was elected to the Compton City Council where she served until 2011. As a City Councilperson, Calhoun fostered several residential and commercial development projects to spur new jobs and economic growth to Compton.



FAYE CHILDS

Recording Secretary

SEIU Local 79

Faye Childs was born in Texarkana TX. Her family moved to Detroit MI when she was six months old. Childs entered into nursing school to become a License Practical Nurse (LPN) at PCHA Hospitals a conglomerate of five hospitals. While working at the PCHA in the 60's Childs became a champion for her co-workers advocating for worker rights and safe working conditions for her co-workers, challenging the hospital administration and her local union alike.



Faye Childs and former SEIU International Secretary Treasurer Betty Bednarczyk

Childs caught the attention of then SEIU Local 79 President Dick Cordtz who immediately recognized the leadership skills of Childs and appointed her Chief Shop Steward, but Childs career did not end there. She went on to be elected Recording Secretary of Local 79, served on negotiating teams representing Local 79 hospital workers. Childs was elected to the SEIU International Executive Board in 1980 where she served until 1996, blazing the trail for other women of color to follow. Faye Childs was a woman of style and grace.

WILLIAM (BILL) FLETCHER, JR. **1954 -**

William Fletcher, Jr., Harvard University graduate, was born in New York, NY. Fletcher started in the labor movement as a rank and file member of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America. Combining labor and community work, he was also involved in ongoing efforts to desegregate the Boston building trades.



Fletcher was employed with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) from April 1991 through 1996, initially hired as the Assistant Education Director, he later headed the Department.

His most important work was the construction of a Leadership Development Program. In addition, a Social Justice Educational effort was initiated that focused on understanding racism, sexism and other forms of oppression from the standpoint of progressive trade unionist.

In 1994 Fletcher became the Director of the Field Services Department. In 1995 he was appointed to serve as the Public Sector Division Director. In 1996 Fletcher was asked to serve as the Assistant to the International President for the East and the Southern Regions. He held that position until he left SEIU in September 1996 when he went to work for the AFL-CIO.

Fletcher left the AFL-CIO in 2001 to become president of TransAfrica Forum, the oldest African American advocacy and foreign policy organization in the United States and served in that capacity until April 2006.

July 2007 Fletcher joined the staff of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) as Director of Field Services & Education. In October 2012 Fletcher became Executive Assistant to the National Vice President a position he held until March 2015.

Some of Fletcher's other activities are, Editorial Board Member and Columnist of the Black Commentator, Senior Scholar for the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC and is the author of "'They're Bankrupting Us' - And Twenty Other Myths About Unions" and co-author of "Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path Toward Social Justice." Fletcher is the host of The Global African Telesur-English television program which addresses the issues facing Africa and the African Diaspora, and the SiriusXM Mark Thompson Progressive Radio program.

PATRICIA A. FORD

1949 –

Former Executive Vice President, SEIU

Patricia Ann Ford, a native of Oakland California, began her labor career as a rank & file clerical worker at Alameda County Hospital. She helped lead a successful effort in 1973 to affiliate a 4000 member association with SEIU that gave birth to Local 616.

In 1978 she became the first African American woman elected president of Local 616; in 1989, she was appointed to the position of Executive Director, thus becoming the first African American and the second woman to so serve.

During her tenure as Executive Director she served as president of SEIU Joint Council 2. In 1992 Pat was elected to the International Executive Board, she was elected and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the SEIU Western Conference in 1994, the first African American and woman to do so.

Pat broke the glass ceiling in 1996 when she was elected Executive Vice President of SEIU, first African American and, again, the second woman in SEIU to hold international office.

Pat was a trailblazer for civil, human and workers rights convening the first Western Conference Civil & Human Right Conference in 1990 which lead to bi-annual civil & human rights regional conferences, and a founding member of National African American Caucus (AFRAM). She negotiated a seven year pay equity agreement raising the wages of 80% Alameda County SEIU represented members and the first leader in SEIU to negotiate domestic partner benefits for SEIU workers.

In its November 2002 Collector's Edition, Essence Magazine listed Ford as one of "Fifty Women Who Are Shaping the World". She is a member of the board of the Congressional Black Caucus Education, Training And Leadership Institute (CBCI) where she served as the chairperson of the Debate Committee that planned and produced the historic 2008 CNN Congressional Black Caucus Institute National Presidential Debate. She is also responsible for the annual CBCI Political Training "Boot Camp" program.

Ford also serve on the Board of SCLC Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now (SCLC WOMEN), an organization that focus on issues affecting women and children with education of AIDS health and awareness, domestic violence, feeding the less fortunate and preserving our rich African American history by documenting the heroic efforts of the unsung heroes/sheroes with monuments of the Civil Rights leaders and activists of the Selma Movement throughout the city of Selma, AL.



**Willie Hampton, President
SEIU Local 79
1943**

Willie Hampton was born in Greenville MS. Willie's family moved to Detroit MI when he was 14 years old. Hampton became an organizer for SEIU in 1972. He Organized the first SEIU nursing home facility in Cincinnati OH, winning back 12 of the 14 fired union supporters jobs. Hampton did such a fantastic job SEIU commissioned him to Chicago IL, Milwaukee WI and Detroit MI where he successful organized hospital workers.



Hampton was one of the major architects of the historical National Industrial Plan on Nursing in SEIU which was noted in the New York Times. He served as the Business Agent Coordinator for SEIU for the state of MI.

In the late 1980's Hampton was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President, but he didn't stop there, he went on to be elected 1st Vice President and Secretary Treasurer of Local 79 in the early 1990's. In 1996 Hampton was elected to the SEIU International Executive Board. In 2000 Hampton was elected President of SEIU Local 79 and President of the SEIU Michigan State Council and served in that capacity until his retirement 2007. Under Hampton's leadership Local 79 grew from 16,000 to 48,000 members due to his strong political leadership, skillful negotiations and organizing skills.

Hampton was a founding member of the SEIU Caucus of African Descent (AFRAM) and served on the Board of the Detroit Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute for 20 years.

LADI MASHOOD OLADIPO HAROONA, MD

1962 – 2011

Dr. Ladi Haroona served as the SEIU Committee of Interns & Residents (CIR) President from 1998-2001. Dr. Haroona left behind a powerful legacy in his leadership of CIR, and the involvement with his community.

He joined CIR during his internal medicine residency at Harlem Hospital. He went on to train in Pulmonary and Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Newark Beth Israel in New Jersey. He was a founding member of the Alpha Pulmonary Critical Care Consultants (APCCC), a Pulmonary Group in Fort Worth, TX. In addition to his medical practice, he was a respected leader at his local Islamic Center.

During Dr. Haroona's tenure as CIR president he oversaw tremendous changes for the union— joining SEIU, winning bargaining rights under federal law for resident physicians, pressing to win the first Accreditation Council Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) limits on work hours, and adding new hospitals and members to CIR.

Dr. Haroona followed CIR's activities throughout his career. In the fall of 2010, he commented on the CIR website on relief efforts in Haiti: "I am happy to see that CIR continues to participate in giving hope to the less endowed members of our communities, and now all over the world."

A theme that resounds in his work with CIR was the need to restore honor to the medical profession.

"Let the seniors among us take an active interest in the overall welfare of the junior colleagues," he wrote in a CIR News column in 2000. "Let us enthrone a safe training environment that upholds the sanctity and dignity of human lives, including those of the interns and residents. I enlist your support in making the medical profession noble once again."



JOHN (“JJ”) JOHNSON

1937 - 2010
PRESIDENT, LOCAL 617,

John George Johnson, fondly known as "JJ" was born in 1937 in Charleston, South Carolina.

While in Burke High School, "JJ" played the trombone in the marching band was a member of the HI-Y Club, an organization that mentored male high school students. He attended Morris College for two years majoring in elementary education.

"JJ" moved to Newark, New Jersey where he launched his labor career. "JJ" was mentored by an uncle who was very active in the labor movement. In 1960 when he organized the workers at the Peter Pan Factory in East Newark, NJ, he became fondly known as "JJ".



In 1965, "JJ" was employed by the United States Postal Service where he was elected Shop Steward of the Mail Handlers Union, Local 10. He served on the Executive Board of Local 10 and was elected Financial Secretary/Treasurer, and continued in that capacity for twelve years.

"JJ" along with Curtis Grimes co-founded Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 617 and, in April 1975, the local was granted a Charter by SEIU. He became the first elected Executive Vice President of Local 617, which became the largest public employees local of SEIU in the state of New Jersey.

In 1987, "JJ" was appointed Trustee of SEIU Local 305 which led to a successful merger with Local 617 under his leadership. He was elected to the International Executive Board of SEIU April 1996, becoming the first African American from the State of New Jersey to serve in the capacity.

In 1997, "JJ" became President of Local 617 where he served until his retirement in 2002. That same year he was elected President of the SEIU New Jersey State Council, the first African American to hold such a prestigious position.

In 1998 "JJ" was elected the Grand Marshal of the Labor Celebration Parade for Essex-West Hudson Labor Council, leading labor, community and political leaders down the streets of Newark NJ. Both New Jersey U.S. Senators, the Governor and members from the New Jersey Congressional delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives attended the celebration.

"JJ" was also a founding member of the National Caucus of People of African Descent (AFRAM).

HERBERT BERNARD LOFTON

1935 -

Born Herbert Bernard Lofton in Oakland, California, in 1935, Lofton was employed for 34 years with the City of Oakland as a Heavy Equipment Operator. In 1960 Herb joined SEIU Local 390 and rose through the ranks of the local union to the office of President, serving in that capacity for more than a decade. During his tenure, Lofton helped navigate the merger of Local 400 with Local 390 giving birth to Local 790. Under his leadership the local grew from 1500 members to 15,000.



Lofton was an advocate for public sector workers. During the 1970's, he fought for public sector workers to have the right to collectively bargain and he worked diligently to gain passage of Agency Shop legislation requiring public sector employees to join the union or pay a service fee.

Lofton fought for greater representation of minorities among the union leadership and staff. He was instrumental in the planning of the historic SEIU Western Conference 1990 and 1992 Civil & Human Rights Conferences which gave birth to the African American and seven other ethnic and advocacy caucuses.

Lofton's activism didn't stop when he retired. Lofton brought the same skills he used as a labor leader to the Bay Area community when he created a non-profit organization called "Brother to Brother" touching the lives of hundreds of Black men among all walks of life in the East Bay. His good work was recognized when he received the prestigious Jefferson Award created in 1972 by Jackie Kennedy Onassis for his community service.

GLORIA MARIGNY

1931 -

Former Secretary-Treasurer
SEUI Local 399



A native of New Orleans, LA, Gloria Marigny began her career as a Nurse's Aide. Gloria moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1958 and continued her health care career as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). When SEIU Local 399 launched an organizing campaign, Gloria was one of the first to sign a membership card. Gloria went on to be a local union organizer, a business Agent, and an Assistant to the Director of the Hospital Division.

Among her major accomplishments, Gloria Marginy is the First African American woman to be elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 399, and one of the first African American women to be elected to the SEIU International Executive Board.

OPHELIA McFADDEN

1935 - 2013

**Former General Manager,
Locals 434 & 434B**

Ophelia McFadden was a visionary, community and political activist, and a champion for social and economic justice. Ophelia was a trailblazer for labor union women in general and African American women in particular.

Ophelia joined the Staff of SEIU Local 434 in 1968. During her tenure, she rose to the ranks of Senior Field Representative and Deputy General Manager. Ophelia broke the glass ceiling for women in SEIU when she became General Manager of Local 434 in 1978.

Ophelia became the first African American women elected as Vice President in 1984, first African American woman to serve on the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Executive Council.

Her signature achievement was her persevering through an 11-year long campaign battle to win representation for 74,000 Los Angeles County home care workers, the largest U.S. organizing victory since 1937, in February, 1999.



ARLINE NEAL
1917 - 2000
Former President, Local 82

Arline Neal was one of the most influential labor leaders in the District of Columbia. Born in Kaiser, West Virginia, Arline moved to the Washington DC area in the mid-1930's.

Wherever there was injustice, Arline was leading the struggle to correct it. Arline joined Local 82 in 1946. In the 1950's and 60's she was an advocate for undocumented workers assisting Latino janitors with issues of citizenship, deportation and grievances in the workplace.

Arline was an active participant and an organizer of the historic *1963 March on Washington*.



She served as an active leader in the DC Integration Movement, integrating eating facilities in the DC area.

During her tenure at Local 82, Arline held the position of 1st Vice President, elected Secretary - Treasurer, and assumed the Position of President from 1973 -1991. Arline Neal was the first woman to serve on the Metropolitan Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

PETER J. OTTLEY

1908 - 1990

Former President, SEIU Local 144

Peter Jerome Ottley was born in the State of Grenada, The West Indies 1908 and came to the United States in 1927. Early in his career in the hotel industry, Peter became involved in the trade union movement.

Peter envisioned strong unions as the only route to economic and social betterment for all workers, not only in the hotel industry, but throughout the nation.

Peter Ottley was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 144 in 1950 and President in 1958. Under his leadership, Local 144 increased its membership to 29,000, and included hospital and nursing home workers.



Peter was twice elected President and Chairman of the Board of Health Careers Training Consortium, Inc. bringing to fruition collaboration of labor and management to improve training for paraprofessionals and other employees in the health care field.

Peter served as Vice President on the BSEIU International Executive Board. In 1965 he was appointed to the post of National Director of Civil Rights & Economic Opportunity for the BSEIU with the responsibility of announcing BSEIU civil & human rights policies, holding one day Civil Rights Conferences in ten major cities throughout the country.

RICHARD PRICE

1927 – 2007

Former President

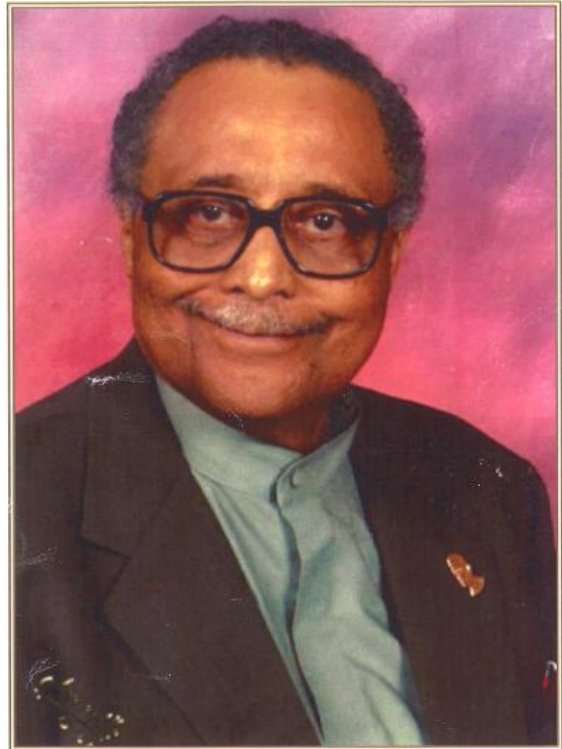
SEIU Local 347 and Rank & File Activist

Richard Price was born in New York, NY, and migrated to Los Angeles, CA.

He was a tenacious rank & file trade unionist and loyal community activist. Richard was employed with the Los Angeles Unified School District, and retired from his position of Traffic Officer after a long tenure with the City of Los Angeles.

Richard served as President of SEIU Local 347 in the early 1990's. He was a major organizer of the historic 1990 Western Conference Civil & Human Rights Conference in Oakland, CA. He took the bold step and declared that, his local union, 347, would host the next Civil & Human Rights Conference in Los Angeles, in 1992.

Richard was a visionary. He conceived the idea of an African American Caucus at the Los Angeles Civil Human Rights Conference and became its first president. His vision spurred the creation of seven additional caucuses, Asian Pacific Islanders, Latino, Native American (Indigenous), Lavender (LGBT), People with Disabilities, Retired Members and Women Caucuses.



WILLIE PRICE
Vice President, SEIU Local 250
1919 - 1989

Willie J. Price, Jr. was born in Baton Rouge LA on July 31, 1919. Willie Price served in the United States Marine Core and was discharged in 1943. Following his military tour of duty, Price worked many jobs before landing a position at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group where he worked for 16 years. Willie's labor career began at Kaiser where he became a shop steward for SEIU Local 250. The Local Union's leadership quickly pegged Price as a leader and recruited him as a union organizer in 1968. Price's leadership talents could not be ignored and subsequently was asked to join the staff of Local 250 as a Business Agent.

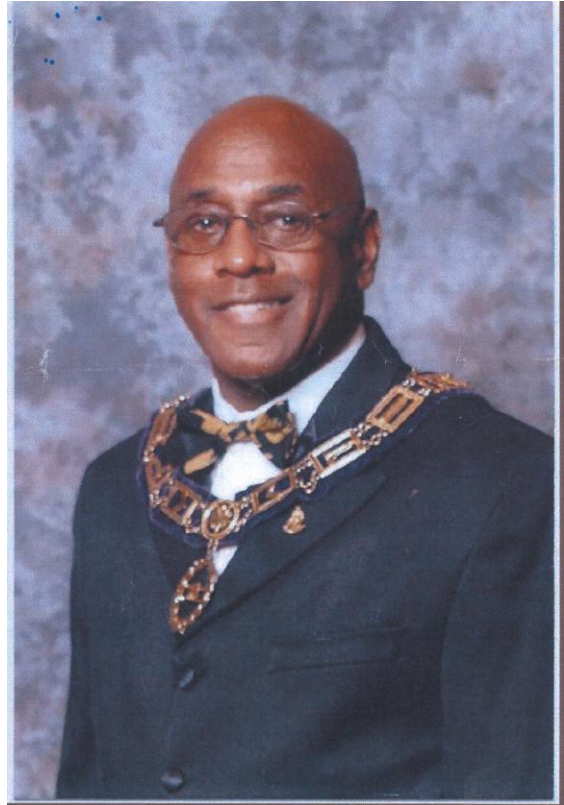


Price's leadership was one of honesty, integrity and reliability which the Local 250 membership acknowledged when they elected him to the office of Vice President; a position he held from 1972 until his retirement in 1987. Price's activism didn't stop when he retired. He continued to work and advocate for retired union members until his health would no longer permit.

CARNELL (SONNY) REED
President, SEIU Local 400PG
1937 - 2014

Carnell (Sonny) Reed was born December 7, 1917 in Haynesville, LA. At the age of seven, Sonny's family relocated to Northwest Washington, DC.

Sonny began working with the Prince George's County School Board in 1964 at the Crestview Elementary School. Soon thereafter opportunities opened for him as an organizer for the Firemen and Oilers Union Local 400. In the seventies he organized the George Meany School and Prince George's County Hospital. In 1979, he became President of Local 400, a position he held until death. In 1984 the Union became affiliated with SEIU and was renamed SEIU Local 400PG.

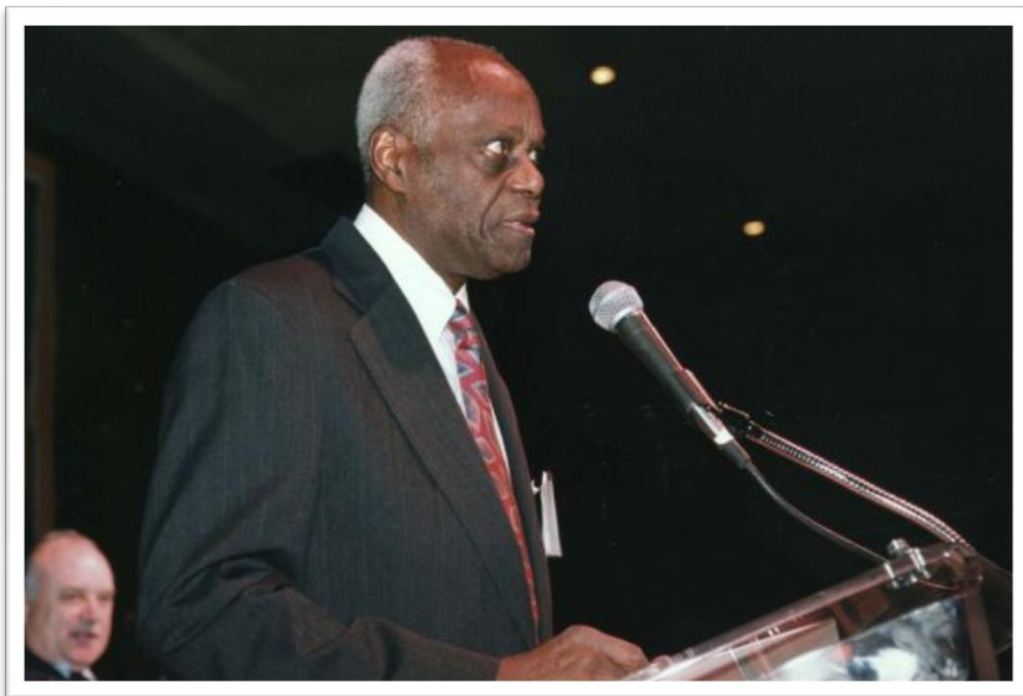


In 1986 Sonny was appointed as a member to the SEIU Public Sector Board and the International Executive Board. He also served on the boards of the Metropolitan-Washington Council of AFL-CIO and the Maryland State Council AFL-CIO.

Sonny was an active and admired member in the Prince Hall Masonry. He was a 33rd Degree Mason belonging to Harmony Lodge #22, a member of Holy Royal Arch Masons, Mecca Temple #10 and the Thrift Chapter #12. He also was a member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, serving as Director of Community Affairs.

CECIL WARD

Vice President, SEIU 32B-321



A native of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Cecil Ward devoted his entire adult life to the labor movement. He came to the City of New York, NY as a child, and entered the building trades as a young man. Cecil joined Local 32B, BSEIU in 1935 and helped organize building service workers in his spare time.

In 1942 Cecil joined the armed forces and served four years, attaining the rank of First Sergeant in the 35th Fighter Squadron. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, Cecil went to work for Local 32B as a Business Agent. In 1964, he was elected Secretary of the union's District No 9, which includes all of Brooklyn and Staten Island. He remained in this post until 1968 when he was elected Chairman of District 9.

In 1973 Cecil was elected Executive Assistant to the President of Local 32B, and in 1977, he was elected Vice President of the merged Locals 32B and 32J. He also served as a member on the SEIU International Executive Board, the SEIU Eastern Conference and the Greater New York Joint Council No. 11.

SHIRLEY WARE

1941 - 1999

**Former Vice President,
SECRETARY/TREASURER, SEIU Local 250**

Shirley Ware was born in Shreveport, LA in 1941. Ms. Ware entered the labor movement the same way she would eventually leave it- as an organizer. Her activism began in a Northern California East Bay convalescent hospital, where, in the early 1960s, while working to become a licensed vocational nurse, she also provided guidance and direction to co-workers in the effort to improve their working conditions. Her leadership spurred the group's effort to organize.

By the early 1970s, Ware was known to be a strong and militant voice for health care workers. She was one of the first women -and the first African American- to be hired by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 250.

For the next two decades, health care workers would see Ware as a voice for patient and worker rights, while bosses/employers would see her as a dynamic and powerful adversary. Ware was arrested more than twenty times, fighting for the rights of workers; always the tenacious, hardworking fighter.

In 1988, Shirley Ware was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of SEIU Local 250, the second largest health care union in the United States, becoming one of the first African American women elected to be a leader of a major union, managing a multimillion dollar budget and directing a staff of 100. She was reelected in 1991 and 1994 and served in that capacity until her death. Under her leadership Local 250 pursued an aggressive campaign of internal and external organizing, growing the union from 25,000 to 46,000 during her tenure.

One of Ware's many accomplishments was convincing the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to enact laws protecting the jobs of county employees, many of whom were low wage workers and women of color, disproportionately affected by a reduction in the work force. Ware was also a founding member of the National SEIU Caucus of People of African Descent (AFRAM)



THOMAS GRAYSON YOUNG

1902 - 1998

Former Vice President,
SEIU Local 32B



A native of St. Kitt, Thomas G. Young was a founder and long term Vice President of Local 32B, Building Service Employees International Union (BSEIU), AFL-CIO.

He was active in the New York State Republican Party and served as a commissioner of the New York State Commission of Corrections from 1946 until the 1970's are just a few of his many attributes.