

**SUMMARY OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY**  
**OF**  
**MR. CONNIE MACK HIGGINS,**  
**CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**BLACK REPUBLICAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC**  
**1612 "K" STREET N.W.**  
**SUITE 1000**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20005**

**BEFORE**

**THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 1991**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, and guests, my name is Connie Mack Higgins. I am Chairman and President of the Omega Group, Inc. and Chairman of D. C. Black Republican Scholarship Fund, Inc.

It is my pleasure to appear before you to testify in support of the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court.

I have known Clarence Thomas for over ten (10) years and the respect I have for him is not solely based upon on political affiliations. But out of the commonality of background, Judge Thomas in his youth knows rural poverty and the ever present shadow of separate but, certainly not equal, justice. I too am a product of poverty but not rural poverty, but urban proverty, public housing and Aid to Dependent Children.

Like Judge Thomas, I too had a strong parental hand. My mother was from Mississippi and had a fourth grade education. Like Judge Thomas, I too was taught the value of hard work and that in America all things are possible.

Those of us who are politically active sometimes forget that we should give back to our community. In 1985 a group of us in the D.C. Black Republican Council was searching for a vehicle to make an impact in our immediate community. Consequently, we decided to

invest in our future and created a tax exempt 301(d) organization called the D.C. Black Republican Council Scholarship Fund, Inc.

The scholarship fund was created to assist graduates of the D.C. Public Schools regardless of their party affiliation or political beliefs. During our inaugural fund raiser we didn't have a lot of "heavy hitters," yet Clarence Thomas unselfishly gave of himself to our cause. As a result, in our first year we were able to award eleven (11) scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to financially and academically deserving graduates of the D.C. Public Schools. The total scholarships awarded up to now has been sixty-six thousand dollars (\$66,000).

Mr. Chairman we need Judge Thomas to be confirmed because his experiences and background bring a sensitivity and vision on those matters of law that will clearly impact the fabric of our society.

In conclusion, the confirmation of Judge Thomas to the Supreme Court clearly is a symbol of all that is right about this great country of ours. No one doubts that there are still mountains to climb, but every journey begins with one step and each successive step brings the destination closer and clearer into view. Judge Thomas confirmation clearly brings the journey to the realization of the American Dream clearer for all. **THANK YOU.**

WASHINGTON POST 10/2/87  
COURTLAND MILLOY

## Scholarship Commitment

**A**t a time when many professional and social organizations are awarding scholarships to D.C. high school students as their way of showing "commitment to the community," one group really stands out.

It is the D.C. Black Republican Council, which, with only 112 members, has given out \$42,000 in scholarships during the past 18 months.

Whatever you want to say about this small group of black Republicans in this overwhelmingly black Democratic town, they are hard to beat when it comes to supporting the education of this city's youth.

The group is among the top contributors for D.C. student scholarships, according to Florence Ridley, director of student affairs for the D.C. public schools. "They are making a very valuable contribution, far out of proportion to their numbers."

Ridley said 1,414 District students received about \$8.8 million in scholarships last year, with the largest scholarships coming from corporations, universities and one anonymous donor who gives \$40,000 each year.

The Black Republicans have been able to come up large amounts of cash by appealing mainly to black business leaders and private residents, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Although they do not expect these contributions to translate into any increase in political support, it does seem worthwhile to examine what it is about the Black Republicans that makes them so effective at raising money.

"First of all, it's important to understand that we are not 'black elites,' with a history of what you'd call being financially comfortable or 'manor born,'" said Connie Mack Higgins, chairman of the D.C. Black Republican Council.

"The black aristocracy is in the Democratic Party," he added. "We [the black Republicans] have, by and large, struggled very hard to get an education and get ourselves established in

business. We have a strong sense for what it takes to help others do the same."

The D.C. Black Republican Council came up with the idea for scholarships in 1968, the year the group was founded.

Like other organizations, the idea was to have an impact on the city in which they operated and education seemed the way to go. However, instead of holding conferences and seminars on the plight of education in the city, they set out to raise as much money as they could for scholarships.

"And the scholarships themselves would be different."

"What I like most about the Black Republicans is that they don't give money just to honor-roll students," Ridley said. "The students are not just college bound, either, but also looking for many kinds of postsecondary education."

"You see, in many instances the students who get the Black Republicans' scholarships also work and they don't always perform at peak levels in school because of other responsibilities. This money takes some of the pressures off and you'd be surprised as to how many of them take off and excel."

So far, 21 students have received \$2,000 each from the Black Republicans. And they expect to keep the award money flowing.

"I would say that black Republicans, along with black Democrats, too, believe that the salvation of our race is the building of an educated electorate, not just for political purposes but for the purposes of life," Higgins said.

"All of us want to expose our kids to the awards dinners, to the role models who can show them that they can make it without selling drugs, that they can be successful forces in the community without the negative."

The local Black Republicans are putting a lot of money and a lot of energy into this effort, and while they say no political rewards are expected, there can be little question that they are spreading the seeds of black Republicanism throughout the town.

## The Washington Times



From left: Ann Heuser, Mack Higgins, Marilyn Tyler Brown, and William Beck.



Mary Lacey and Helen Steiner.



Members of the Glen Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble.

## Barriers drop at fund-raiser

Democrats join Republicans to meet black scholarship goal

**D**C's black Republicans, a rare but by no means endangered species met their goal and raised some \$24,000 for college scholarships at their first annual fund-raiser Saturday.

City Councilwoman Charlotte Drew Jarvis, one of several Democrats among the 400 guests, declared that the night's goal "wasn't so political after all."

She recalled how her father, the late Dr. Charles Drew, (R-DC) is a surgeon; professor of surgery and pioneer in blood plasma research; got her a study-scholarship scholarship with assistance from his Amherst alma mater. Scholarships are now in even greater demand, she noted, because of federal cut cuts and the limited resources of the United Negro College Fund.

Marianne Swanson, a member of the D.C. Republican Committee who is a legislative clerk for the House, was not surprised at the number of Democrats in the audience. "They're responsive," she said. "They're not necessarily ready to change parties. But they're thinking about it."

Added about black Republicans is

just the GOP; the vivacious brunette, said "It takes a lot of courage to be outspoken on unpopular things, especially if you're a minor ty. But she added, things are changing. "My mother, who's been a Democrat forever since her ticket for the first time — she gave Mondale a sympathy vote, and then she voted for Warner."

The event, animatedly hosted since she began unsuccessfully in a business message, Secretary of Labor W. J. Leo Brock urged the gathering to "take responsibility" for "our children's future."

Then the Glen Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble erupted onto the stage. The troupe is sponsored by the Adolph Coors (brewing) Co., represented here by the public relations firm of another well-known D.C. Democrat, Mrs. Edith Perry. The Denver-based dancers demonstrated the audience with their powerful burlesque interpretations of song and word.

The finale, entitled "Mambo," and featuring men and women in flowing red skirts, drew a standing ovation, verifying what poet Salyern Quills said earlier: "From this seat, it's easy to see — there's a lot of soul in the LHM."

— Cheryl Weisman



Leo Steiner and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

# THE WASHINGTON *Informer*

Washington's Prize Winning Weekly  
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH EXCITING NEWS AND PICTURES

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## Scholarship Awards

Recipients of the District of Columbia National Black Republican Council's First Annual Scholarship Fund Awards are: First row, from left, Salyta Newsome, Cardozo High School; Karlene Kennedy, Washington Dix Street Academy; Nancy G. Hill, Dunbar High School; Diane Y. Robles, Cardozo High School; Bridgett A. Carrol, Roosevelt High School. Second row, from left, Javil G. Davis, McKinley High School; Gregory Butler, Anacostia High School; Angela R. Norman, H. D. Woodson High School; Mia F. Montgomery, Eastern High School; and of Yvonne Jones, Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts. Each recipient received \$2,000 at a ceremony held at Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ on June 21.



**D.C. Chapter  
National  
Black  
Republican  
Council**

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(202-882-8059)

**Rules**

Melvin Burton, Esq

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Gwendolyn Moore

**Youth Affairs**

Randall Leverette

**FACT SUMMARY**

**Event:** First Annual D.C./BRC Scholarship Dinner

**Date:** Saturday, September 21, 1985

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ballroom  
Sheraton Washington Hotel  
2660 Woodley Road, Northwest  
Washington, D.C.

**Purpose:** The D.C. Chapter of the National Black Republican Council is sponsoring a black-tie dinner to finance scholarships for deserving 1986 graduates of the District of Columbia Public Schools. These scholarships will be awarded to students who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs and will be part of a comprehensive program designed to:

- a) Identify potential business leaders early in their careers;
- b) Increase the interest in entrepreneurship among Black students; and
- c) Nurture their continued interest by providing financing for education and training through internships with successful business owners.

**Keynote Speaker:** The Honorable William E. Brock  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor

**Entertainment:** Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

**Sponsoring Organization:** The District of Columbia Chapter of the National Black Republican Council (NBRC) is the largest and most active of the 26 chapters of NBRC.

**CONNIE MACK HIGGINS**  
Principal  
The Omega Group, Inc.  
1612 K Street, N.W.  
10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20006



**SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND:**

Fifteen (15) years of management and administrative experience at the executive level in the public and private sectors. Proven expertise in corporate strategic planning and implementation. Experienced in the development of national human resource development strategies.

Served on a presidential mission to Kenya, Zaire, The Ivory Coast, and Nigeria to establish the communication system and technical assistance delivery systems between the private sectors of these nations and the business sector of the United States.

**SELECTED EXPERIENCE:**

Over twenty years experience organizing and directing programs and organizations in the private and public sectors. Professional expertise in the following areas:

- . Management of Large Organization
- . Strategic Planning
- . International Economic Development

Management of Large Organizations

Appointed Administrator of a major component of the Executive Branch. Developed and directed the implementation of national programs for Management Services delivery and Financial management.

Founded and direct a management consulting firm specializing in technology transfer and management systems design, implementation and operation. Company is comprised of sixty professionals with a nationwide client portfolio.

Strategic Planning

Formulated the strategic plan for major elements of national presidential campaigns. Conducted the situation analysis, the planning goals and the implementation strategy for each campaign.

Development the long range plan for a major federal administration supporting the private sector. Implementation of the plan provides major support activity to private enterprise.



**Balyla Newcome**  
Cantosa  
High School

**Karlina Kennedy**  
Washington D.C.  
Street Academy

**Nancy Hill**  
Dumbear  
High School

**Otana Robles**  
Cantosa  
High School

**Bridgett Garret**  
Rosenwald  
High School

**Javil Davis**  
McIntyre  
High School

**Gregory Butler**  
Anacostia  
High School

**Angela Norman**  
W D Woodson  
High School

**Mia Montgomery**  
Eastern  
High School

**Terrence Jones**  
Duke Ellington School  
of the Performing Arts

## 1986 D.C. Black Republican Scholarship Recipients

### General Information

The intent of the District of Columbia's Black Republican Scholarship Fund extends beyond its political interests. The program concept is predicated on the belief that "a genuinely free society cannot exist without participation from all groups." We further believe that disadvantaged youth should be provided opportunities for participation in this free society and have thereby, established a scholarship fund for that purpose.

### Freedom Through Education

*The District of Columbia  
Black Republican Council  
Scholarship Fund, Inc.*

It is our view that education contributes to one's political experience. It is also our belief that man's social and educational experiences are intrinsically linked together—making one the total sum of his experience.

The District of Columbia Black Republican Scholarship Fund is dedicated to the provision of educational growth and development of qualified youth of the District of Columbia. Through our efforts we are happy to assist our young people in pursuing and achieving their dreams in the arts, sciences, business and politics.

Excellence is our motto. The District of Columbia Black Republican Scholarship Fund deems it a wise investment to help our youth soar to hitherto unknown heights and share in one of life's greatest political experiences—**EDUCATION.**

The purpose of the Black Republican Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to highly motivated disadvantaged youth enrolled in a District of Columbia Public Senior High School.

Currently, this country produces large numbers of skilled professionals. Unfortunately, few of this larger group includes disadvantaged young Americans. They are the group who must be

provided training in order that they be prepared to enter the world of work. This skill attainment will permit disadvantaged persons the freedom to enter the world of the free enterprise system.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applications will be accepted from students in their senior year in the D.C. Public Schools. Each applicant must be at least 16 years of age with 23 being the limit for eligible participation. All applicants must be residents of the District of Columbia and enrolled in day or night school. Disadvantaged students are strongly encouraged to participate. Students must demonstrate an above average level of achievement in their high school careers, which includes community, civic, and academic leadership. Candidates must have an overall average of C and must also be accepted in an institution of higher learning.

### **The Selection Process**

Applications will be filled out by each high school senior interested in the goals and objectives of the Fund. Applicants will be pre-screened by the Scholarship Selection Committee Division of Student Services, D.C. Public Schools, for general eligibility, and highly qualified applications will be forwarded to the Scholarship Fund Inc. Selection Committee. All applicants will then be screened and carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the Scholarship Fund Inc. The Selection Committee will choose 10 nominees for approval by the Board. The selection process by the Scholarship Fund Inc. is non-partisan and designed to identify minority and other disadvantaged young men and women who show promise of providing the kind of leadership that will influence the shape of our society for many years to come.

### **Remuneration Amount**

Scholars will receive scholarships of \$2000.00. If for any reason the student cannot complete his/her studies the residual amount shall be returned to the Board of Directors of the D.C. Black Republican Scholarship Fund, Inc. This return of funds will be based on the policy of the College or Universities.

### **Board of Directors**

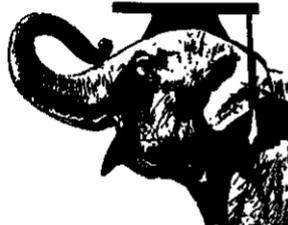
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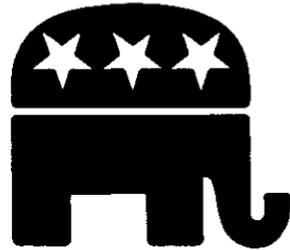
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REPUBLICAN**



**“Scholarship  
Fund” Inc.**