

# Sophisticated Settings

## ASALH Hosts Congressional Briefing on Civil War's 150th Anniversary

Ron Armstead, executive director of Veterans Brain Trust at the podium and Dr. Darryl Scott, vice president for programs, ASALH

By Andrea L. "Aunni" Young  
Special to the AFRO

The executive board of the Association for Study of the African American Life and History (ASALH) hosted a briefing on the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the 112th Congress at the Capitol Visitors Center on Feb. 3.

The briefing, directed by Sylvia Cyrus, executive director of ASALH, presented impactful information to support the sesquicentennial celebration of the American Civil War.

Panelists included Dr. Frank Smith, executive director for the African American Civil War Museum; Dr. Darryl Scott, ASALH vice president for programs; Bob Beatty, director of programs, American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and Ron Armstead, executive director, CBC Veterans Brain Trust.

Alan Spears, National Parks Conservation Association's legislative representative

Sterling Henry, Capitol Hill representative for the African American Civil War Museum; Frank Smith, founding director, African American Civil War Museum; Debra Stepp, ASALH and Louis Hicks, ASALH board member and co-chairman, BHM Luncheon Committee

The Buffalo Soldiers lend support to the African American Civil War cause.

John W. Franklin, National Museum of the African American History & Culture; Frank Smith, founding director, African American Civil War Museum and Andrea Young, AFRO social writer

Debra Stepp, ASALH and George Henry, chief of staff for Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.

Katherine Hall, staffer for Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., and Sterling Henry, Capitol Hill representative for the African American Civil War Museum

Ron Armstead; Shirley Smith, ASALH Luncheon Committee; Natalie Howard, ASALH president; Frank Smith; Sylvia Cyrus; Allie Latimer; Emma King; Delores Tucker Branch and John W. Franklin.

Louis Hicks, ASALH board member; Bob Beatty, director of programs, AASLH; Sylvia Cyrus, ASALH executive director; Frank Smith, director, African American Civil War Museum; John W. Franklin, National Museum of the African American History & Culture and Ron Armstead, executive director, Veterans Brain Trust

## Black Stars Sizzle at Annual BET Honors Awards Show

By Andrea L. "Aunni" Young  
Special to the AFRO

The red carpet sizzled as Black Entertainment Television (BET) held its fourth annual BET Honors Awards show taping in Washington, D.C. recently. This year, BET honored the legendary actress Cicely Tyson for her life's work in the theatrical arts; Oscar Award-winning Jamie Foxx for his career in entertainment; supermodel and entrepreneur Iman for her service to others; publishing mogul Linda Johnson Rice for her career in media; Harbie Hancock for his life's work in the musical arts and historian/educator Lonnie Bunch for his work in education.

The show was executive produced by Stephen Hill, president of music programming and specials for BET Networks; Lynne Harris Taylor, vice president of specials for BET Networks and John Cossette of John Cossette Productions.

The awards show featured exciting performances by Yolanda Adams and the Cicely L. Tyson Concert Choir; D.C.'s own Tank, R&B group Guy, R&B performer Ne-Yo, the legendary Chick Corea Quartet, Keyshia Cole, Angelique Kidjo, and Naturally 7. Some of the presenters included Hill Harper, Jimmy Jam, Noah Gray Cabey, Cedric the Entertainer, and Anika Noni Rose. Actress Gabrielle Union served as event host for the third consecutive year.

All private ticket sales for the BET Honors Awards Show will be given to the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation this year. The show airs Feb. 21.



Chance Jackson, a reporter for the Fab Empire D.C.'s own Glimpse, and Ursula Lauriston, Washington Life magazine

Gospel artist Yolanda Adams gives an anointed performance in honor of Cicely Tyson

Anika Noni Rose, actress and award presenter

Actress Nicole Ari Parker and husband, actor Boris Kodjoe

Cicely Tyson speaks with the media

Linda Johnson Rice, Johnson Publishing Company and BET honoree for media

Jamie Foxx and his date

R&B performer Ne-Yo

Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray

Gabrielle Union, host of the 2011 BET Honors Awards Show

April Woodard, "BET News" personality

BET Honor for Service award recipient, Iman

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder

April Watts of the WHW Show

Actor and presenter Hill Harper speaks with April Watts of the WHW Show

Model and successful entrepreneur B. Smith with husband and producer Dan Gasby

Aaron and Damon Hall of R&B group Guy with WPGC's own Anjil Gorley

Singer Lalah Hathaway

Photos by Markette Smith and Andrea L. "Aunni" Young