

Ask A. J.



The Polls Don't Speak For Me!

few freedoms outside their home environment. August 28, 2010 African Americans and other races again, took to the streets to call attention to many of the same conditions that exist today, not only for Blacks, but poor Whites and Latinos. Since the civil rights legislation, many white women, gays, and black men and women have used that law to gain their legal, lawful right to equality on the job, fair employment, equal housing and much more, yet,..... in the year 2010 we see in the news and sometimes in our very own communities, blatant police brutality, discrimination in the business world, and yes unfair treatment of minorities in education. Don't mention unfair hiring practices. All you have to do is look at our county courthouse, where no black faces are seen wearing the title of employee, to know

that the evils of racism and discrimination are alive and well. Black people pay county taxes too, yet they are denied jobs there as though their families don't have to eat.

Not only are we, in 2010, still facing racism and other problems of the sixties, but now the threat to take away the "Freedom To Worship" has raised its ugly head. The main stream media has stirred up controversy surrounding the building of a Muslim Mosque twelve blocks from Ground Zero, in New, York. I have heard a dozen news commentators say," 75% of the American people are against the building of that Mosque and the building of any Mosque on American soil should be banned. Nobody ask me nor the people I converse with on a daily basis how we feel. When did they talk to 75% of the American people? The polls don't speak for me! The church leader in Florida who

plans to burn Korans on September 11th has taken it upon himself to protest the building of the Mosque in New York saying he is doing it in memory of those killed by terrorist there. I wonder does he even know the names of any who perished there? Many of those people were of the Muslim faith. Where is he getting his information? Did he speak with survivors? I also wonder if he has even read the Koran. We need not have a war of words to begin interference with our freedom to worship. I am a Christian like 85% of all Americans. I would be shocked if anybody of another faith even talked about piling up and burning copies of the Holy Bible.

I guess the pollsters will announce that a poll says 75% of Americans agree with burning Korans. What happened to "Do unto others as you would have them do you"? The polls don't speak for me!

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963. Attended by some 250,000 people, it was the largest demonstration ever seen in the nation's capital, and one of the first to have extensive television coverage. The results of that march was the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Black people were living under deplorable conditions with



Mr. James I. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, received one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon an individual. January 29, 2008 the Stephen F. Austin State University College of Education was named the James I. Perkins College of Education. Seated here are Mr. Perkins, Indianapolis Colts Defensive Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Melontree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Session, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides approximately 936 jobs to East Texas.

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