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# The Black Voice News

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NO. 1942

Volume 37 Number 1

Serving the Inland Empire Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

Thursday, July 2, 2009



## REMEMBERING MICHAEL JACKSON 1958 - 2009

Fans around the world mourn and pay tribute to the King of Pop

By Chris Levister

Michael Jackson's brand of pop knew no borders and needed no translation linking listeners around the world through his classic rhythm, beat and dance. From the Hollywood Walk of Fame to London's O2 Arena, Harlem's Apollo Theater where Tuesday thousands of fans gave the late pop star a raucous yet respectful send-off during a six hour tribute to his life and music.

Some 600 fans crowded into the Apollo Theater waving white flags and

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## Personal Brush with the King of Pop

The Black Voice News  
LOS ANGELES

By Cheryl Brown  
REFLECTIONS

July of 1976, the Jackson 5 were now the Jackson's and changing record labels. Black Voice News was invited to that party and we got more than we ever thought we would get. Not only did we meet Michael Jackson, we also met the brothers, sisters, and attended Joe Jackson's birthday party. My daughter Lynn Renee Lee had an opportunity to surprise Michael when he put the mike in her face and she began singing along with him. Her voice surprised him as he jumped back not expecting such a strong voice, he made some comment before moving on and dazzling the audience. My nephew, John Rogers Banks, was in awe. It was his first taste of California. We had just come off the road from a cross country trip; he was relocating after high school to live out his dream of being in the state.

"Meeting Michael Jackson was wonderful and exciting, but not just meeting him but talking with him, watching him perform and the party in the suite made me remember and cherish the meeting. I was inspired by him.



Photo by Cheryl Brown  
July 1976: Thirty-three years ago Michael Jackson shakes the hand of John Rogers Banks as Lynn Renee Lee looks on.

Here he was the same age as I and I had grown up with his music, he made you think and feel you could do anything," said Banks.

"His show performance was engraved in my mind. That night was magic, singing and going to the party has made me a follower but now that he has passed, I appreciate his talent even more," said Lee. Ironically, it was her

singing with him that got us invited to the private party by one of the record execs.

The night not only exposed us to the Jacksons but others were there: Bobby Womack, Aretha Franklin's son, Eddie, Mother's Finest, the late Minnie Riperton and Al Green, The O'Jays, Ashford and Simpson, Levert, the Isley Brothers, the list went on and on. Mrs. Jackson didn't

seem to be comfortable and I later found out that she was a Jehovah's Witness and did not celebrate birthdays but she came to me to talk about babies. I was very pregnant with Regina and she was empathizing as mothers do. We carried on a conversation and with her having so many she could relate to where I was. I found Michael to be shy, he was

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## LAPD: Predict 200,000 People at Jackson Funeral, "Details Pending"

The Black Voice News  
LOS ANGELES

By BVN Staff

Members of Michael Jackson's family met Tuesday with officials from the Los Angeles police and California Highway Patrol about funeral services, but "details are still pending," according to Fran Clader, a spokeswoman for the

Meanwhile heavy construction equipment and workers passed through the wrought-iron gates of Neverland Ranch, fueling speculation that it could soon be hosting a funeral or a permanent memorial to Michael Jackson. The activity occurred Tuesday the patrol would need to be consulted if the body was moved from Los Angeles to Neverland.

Santa Barbara County officials said there were no final decisions by the Jackson family for any funeral or memorial service in the county or at Neverland.

Michael Jackson's father Joe says planning for the pop star's funeral is awaiting final details of a second autopsy. Results are expected by Friday. Jackson's 7-

year-old will was filed Wednesday in a Los Angeles court, giving his entire estate to a family trust but cutting out his former wife Debbie Rowe. The will, dated July 7, 2002, estimated his estate at that time at more than \$500 million. It gives the entire estate to the Michael Jackson Family Trust. The Jackson family is planning to hold a private service for close friends and immediate family. With the unprecedented interest in the entertainer and his untimely death, a family spokesperson said the private service could be relayed via video and loudspeaker to crowds expected to line the streets of cities and towns around the world. A global audience of several hundred million is expected to watch the funeral service.

With as many as 200,000 people predicted to converge on Los Angeles for the funeral, police chief Bill Bratton has set aside a special unit to co-ordinate plans.

It is thought the funeral could be the biggest in entertainment history, with tens of thousands of mourners lining LA streets. US TV networks are preparing

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