Film trilogy to pay homage to Wright, Mt. Union community

By WILLIS WEBB
Newsboy Editor-Publisher

Few people felt better about being “from Jasper and proud of it,” than the late Herman Wright Sr.

And, no one recognized that any better than his son, Herman Jr., who is developing a film trilogy detailing his father’s upbringing and underpinnings in the Jasper County community of Mt. Union.

Wright, the son, described himself as a “passionate observer” of his father since he was a small child.

The younger Wright left a rewarding career in the insurance industry to do the film trilogy, not just as a tribute to his father but as a guide for succeeding generations of African-Americans. The trilogy will focus on historical “paths” that may exist for young people facing life in the 21st Century.

“We will fund universities and selected school districts to research and archive this history, to chart a path for young people to understand what is buried in a modern culture to achieve success,” Wright said.

As the passionate observer of his late father, Wright watched his dad overcome every obstacle that young African-Americans faced during the 20th Century. His 24 years in the military ended with retirement as a lieutenant colonel. He commanded paratroopers in two wars, Korea and Vietnam, and in a military mission in Liberia as well as to put down riots at the Panama Canal.

Wright’s military career led his family to homes in Central America and West Africa as well as the U.S.

During the elder Wright’s military career, he set about buying up his ancestral lands in Jasper County and upon his retirement from the military, he took up ranching.

Soon he sought additional challenges. He took an entry level in human resources in the timber industry after a dead-end application to teach school. The elder Wright rose from his entry level position to become an executive with Louisiana Pacific Corp.

His quick business success and propensity for public service led to his election to the Jasper Independent School District Board of Trustees. He was soon elected president of that body, a position he held for 17 years. Upon telling of that event to a close friend years later, the irony of it was mentioned by the friend. All at

“Do what is right and ought to be.”

— Herman Wright Sr.’s motto

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Wright Sr.'s vision for youth who in need of a sense of identity and to find their own voices to stand up for their rights. His vision was extraordinary, inspiring others to follow his path. He believed in the potential of all children and was committed to providing opportunities for their education.

One of the inspirational leaders of the Mt. Union community was Arvella Barnett Wright, Herman Wright Sr.'s mother. She encouraged community leaders to build schools and provide opportunities for children to attend. She was tireless in her efforts to provide education for all children.

Wright Jr. refers to his trilogy as "The Long Black Line". His company, MC3, is working with Africentric and university institutions such as the Texas Tech University and Prairie View A&M University. The trilogy addresses the spirit of blacks, the past, and the future.

Part One, "The Long Black Line" is expected to be released this spring. It examines the spirit of blacks, the past, and the future of the Mt. Union community. Arvella Wright put her son, Herman, on a train for a better future at college. Part Two of the trilogy, "The Bridge", poses a question: "Did African Americans achieve integration in the 1960s or desegregation?"

Wright Jr. wrote of "The Bridge", "We examine the fate of black institutions that were part of the black community such as its universities, schools..."