

# THE KANSAS CITY GLOBE IO

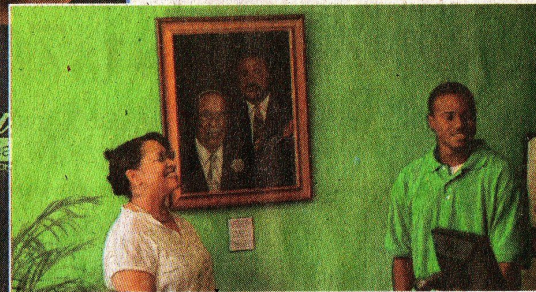
Serving the community for 37 years.

VOL.38 NO. 28 WEEKLY (816) 531-5253 kcglobe@swbell.net THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 THRU WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010

## 65-Year-Old Business Marks Milestone



Courtesy Dry Cleaners manager Roxane Johnson (daughter) and John Brown, III (grandson) of the company's founder, John Brown, Sr., accept a proclamation from KCMO Councilwoman Sharon Sanders Brooks. Below, a portrait of Brown, Sr. and son, John Brown, Jr., greets customers inside the business. **MORE ON PAGE 8**



KC GLOBE PHOTOS

In Kansas City last Saturday prior to delivering the keynote address at the Johnson County NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kan., Martin took questions from reporters and later expounded on some of those remarks in a strong message to nearly 600 banquet guests.

Martin told *The Kansas City Globe*, "When organizers of the One Nation march contacted me several months ago, I told them, 'If you have 25 or 30 different agendas, it's going to be a massive failure,'" and he urged the labor groups, progressive and civil rights organizations and other organizers to make sure they streamlined their message so that the focus stayed on economics and education because the two are "absolutely tied to one another."

Martin said the discussion

On the topic of economics Martin said, "There is no doubt that with the conditions we are faced with in the country, we have to be absolutely laser focused on the economy."

Martin said 50 percent of black wealth will be wiped out as a result of the foreclosure crisis that is occurring nationally and when people are losing their homes, it has a ripple effect on the community.

"Sixty-five percent of all our jobs comes from small businesses, but if a small business owner does not own their home as a result of foreclosure, they don't have any home equity to go to a bank and get a loan, so they don't have the ability to leverage that for their business or for money needed to fund their child's education."

*Continued on page 15*

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# Courtesy Dry Cleaners Hosts 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## *Family, Other Staff Continue Browns' Legacy*

**Kansas City, Mo.**—A crowd of more than 150 people helped Courtesy Dry Cleaners celebrate its first 65 years of service to the Kansas City area while also ushering in another era during the cleaners' 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Sept. 25, 2010 on the company's parking lot. The cleaners, located at 2300 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., is one of the oldest black-owned businesses in the Kansas City area.

The event was kicked off with a live radio broadcast hosted by KPRT-AM's Eric Wesson that featured interviews with employees, customers and business associates. During the radio broadcast and celebration a portrait commissioned by local artist Kathy Colon and a commemorative billboard of the last two owners, John Brown, Sr. and John Brown, Jr., were unveiled. Entertainment was provided by the L.A. Tolbert Charter District Band and De Barker's Unyt Kyds,

*The cleaners, which was founded in September 1945 by John Brown, Sr. and three partners, provides retail and wholesale dry cleaning, laundry, alteration and shoe repair services, as well as free pick up and delivery.*

as well as food and gifts were available for attendees.

Kansas City Councilwoman



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