

by **Angelo B. Henderson, Associate Editor, Real Times**

He challenged us, chastised us and changed us as Black people.

Vernon Jarrett wasn't afraid to fight for us. In fact, he was created to do just that—not with his hands, but with his head.

Strategic. Uncompromising. Fearless.



He knew who he was and he'd tell you who you were if you ever forgot.

Cantankerous about education, freedom and fairness for his people because he cared; impatient because he was passionate.

It wasn't often that anyone was confused about what Vernon Jarrett said.

Flustered or frustrated by his comments, maybe; but never fuzzy or foggy about the message.

As a columnist, editorial board member, television show host, reporter, author and founder of NAACP's ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics), Vernon Jarrett was never scared to say exactly what he meant. That's why no one could ever speak for him.

We can't even do that today, and he's no longer with us.

The fact is he started his journalism life with us as a reporter here at the Chicago Defender, a Black-owned newspaper, and he ended it here as a columnist. He believed in the Black press.

In this section, you will hear from Vernon Jarrett—in his own words. He's going to talk about education, the war, the church, and you know Vernon—whatever else he wants to.

Farewell to another civil rights pioneer, who has joined the heavenly list of civil rights greats.

There was Douglass, DuBois, Langston, Truth, Wells—and now there's Jarrett.