

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2003

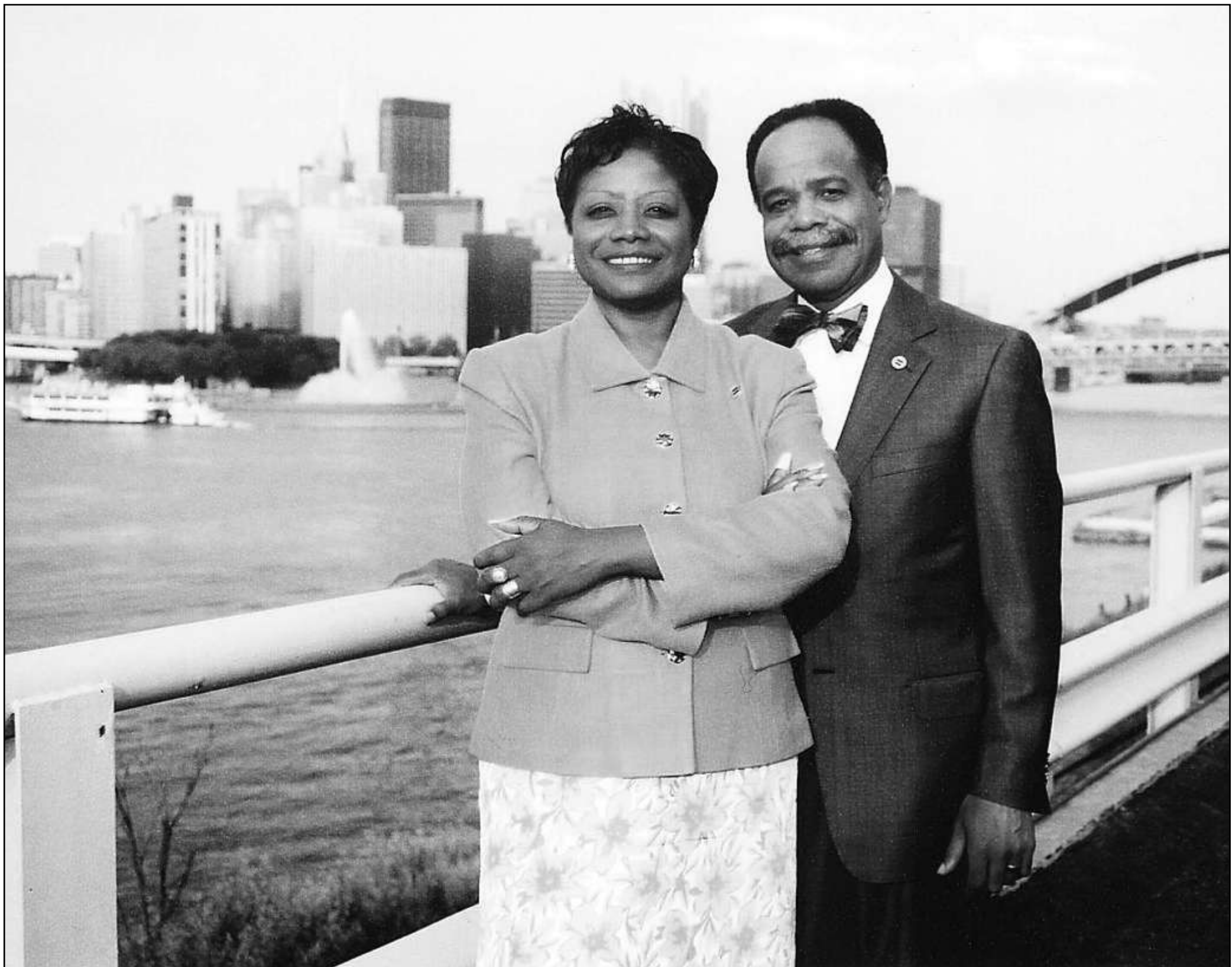


PHOTO BY VENETIA PALM

The Urban League of Pittsburgh, under the leadership of President and CEO Esther Bush and Chairman of the Board Glenn Mahone, will host this year's National Conference.

CONVENTION THEME:

THE BLACK FAMILY

Building On Its Resilience

by Sonya M. Toler
Courier Staff Writer

Nationally, the Urban League has a reputation for offering social programs that help people achieve their dreams, from education to getting your finances straight, from attaining a job to making life more enjoyable for senior citizens.

The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement empowering African-Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream through a

three-pronged approach:

- Ensuring that our children are well-educated and equipped for economic self-reliance in the 21st century;
- Helping adults attain economic self-sufficiency through good jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation; and
- Ensuring our civil rights by eradicating all barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream of America.

A unifying theme of all of the Urban League's programs is family. With that in mind, "The Black Family: Building on its Resilience," is a fitting theme for this year's National Urban League Conference, July 26-30 in Pittsburgh.

"This is a topic that is central to the work of the Urban League and one which this conference will examine from

many vantage points. In addition to revisiting the lessons we learned from our historic 1983 Black Family Summit and landmark publication, 'The Strengths of Black Families,' we will look at today's Civil Rights Movement and its role in under-girding African-American families," wrote Michael J. Critelli, National

Urban League chairman of the board, and Marc H. Morial, National Urban League president.

The local Urban League affiliate, under the leadership of President Esther L. Bush and Glenn R. Mahone, has also addressed the theme of families from various fronts.

In the 2001/02 service year, the Urban League of Pittsburgh served 32,617 people. Its Family Growth and Child Development Department served 469, the

Education/Youth Development Department served 3,765, the Employment Training/Economic Empowerment Department served 14,868, and the Housing Department served 13,515.

One of the success stories of the local affiliate involves one of two Family Support Centers.

A young man named Jerome suddenly became a single father of four children, all under the age of 7. Jerome had previously exhausted his sick leave due to a serious illness. He lost his job and was facing eviction.

Not knowing what to do, he turned to the Urban League Family Support Center for help. Through the center's services, he obtained unemployment benefits, food stamps and deferred utility billing.

SEE FAMILY UL-6



MICHAEL J. CRITELLI
Chairman
National Urban League



MARC H. MORIAL
President and CEO
National Urban League

