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NEWS  
& EVENTS

## Saint Augustine's College Student Selected to Sing for Presidents Bush and Clinton

**Raleigh, NC-** Saint Augustine's College student Cornell Gilmore would have never guessed that his humble talent would grant him the opportunity to sing for a U.S. President, yet alone two.

On Friday, March 9, 2007, Cornell, a senior baritone, will sing the national anthem at the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) 63rd Anniversary Dinner honoring President George W. Bush and President William J. Clinton at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers in New York. "I was very happy when I got the news," Cornell said. "My mom is very excited about getting me ready."

With musical influences ranging from Beethoven to Stevie Wonder to Fred Hammond, Cornell believes that his love for music began in the womb. "I had to learn how to sing, because my father was a musician," he said. "This is what he wanted for me."

Cornell's father, Command Sgt. Major Cornell W. Gilmore was killed November 7, 2003, when the Black Hawk helicopter he was riding crashed near Tikrit, Iraq.

Cornell said most people would expect him to have a very deep emotional tie to singing the national anthem due to losing his father, however he said he's always had an appreciation for the true meaning of the song. "I grew up a military brat, I know the sacrifices involved," he said.

Once he graduates, Cornell plans to use his music education in the areas of performance and writing.

Saint Augustine's College music professor, Dr. Isobel Bartz, Cornell's voice teacher, will accompany him on the trip to New York.

"We have many students who were qualified for the honor, but this is a great opportunity for Cornell to be exposed," she said. "I've worked with him since his freshman year and I feel that he is somebody who needs to be recognized."