

■ LEFT: An exultant CSA president Ernest Logan greeted members with contract news in 2014 at the CSA Annual Conference at Manhattan's New York Hilton. ABOVE: Before becoming CSA President, Logan was a teacher, an assistant principal, an education administrator and a principal. Here, he instructs elementary school students in Brooklyn.

As the Logan Era Ends, A Look Back At A Big Career

BY CHIARA COLETTI

Moments after Ernie Logan told a room full of CSA members he was retiring, Mayor Bill de Blasio took the microphone and said this about CSA's four-term president:

"Ernie doesn't tell you what you want to hear," De Blasio said at the LaGuardia Marriott. "He is consistent. He will kick your butt year in and year out."

This comes after de Blasio took many a verbal drubbing from Ernie, who criticized "the glacial pace of the School Renewal Program," "dicey absentee protocols for children," and a school disciplinary code "that prevents principals from using their judgement."

The criticism didn't affect their professional relationship because Mayor de Blasio knew Ernie is an equal opportunity critic—he's been no easier on the current Democratic mayor than he was on Republican Mike Bloomberg before him.

De Blasio also knew that once Ernie is on board, he is a true ally. He threw his full support behind Mayor de Blasio's community schools expansion, the Mayor's pledge to get advanced placement and computer

science courses into every school, and especially his implementation of Universal Pre-K.

"Ernie was always looking over the horizon" the mayor said at the Marriott, adding that Ernie counseled him years ago to launch universal Pre-K, include 3-year-olds, and to return physical education space to every school. "We're doing those things now," de Blasio said.

In his 10 years as CSA President, Ernie battled fiercely to secure two contracts, in 2007 and 2014. In 2014 he, along with incoming CSA President and close friend Mark Cannizzaro as lead negotiator, secured substantial pay increases for members and long-sought salary steps for education administrators. Recently, Ernie helped win pay increases, healthcare stability and professional development for his Early Childhood Directors. He also strengthened the Executive Leadership Institute, CSA's professional development arm, partnered with Sage College to found a doctoral program for CSA members, and, in fierce negotiations, made sure members kept full health benefits.

He also oversaw a major real estate

Continued on Page 2



■ ABOVE, TOP: As a union leader, CSA President Ernest Logan relished school visits. ABOVE: Along with CSA members and fellow labor unionists, CSA President Ernest Logan enjoyed a lively Labor Day Parade this past September.



Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

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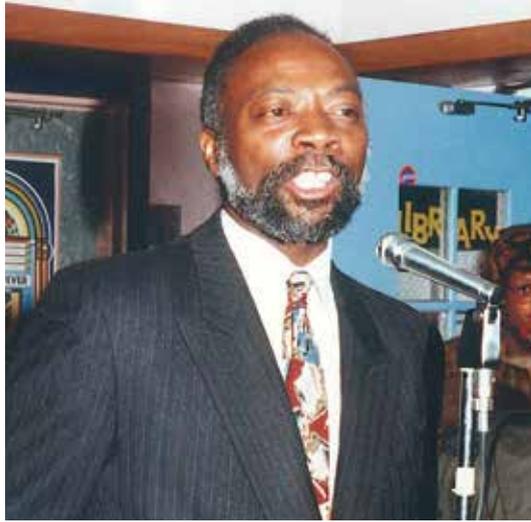
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Leader Of Leaders: Celebrating Style and Fortitude During Contract Negotiations, Economic



■ As a young school leader, Ernest Logan became an increasingly active voice in CSA's affairs.

Continued from Page 1

transaction. In 2012, CSA bought its present offices at 40 Rector St. in lower Manhattan, and moved from its longtime Brooklyn headquarters at 16 Court St. The purchase has proven prescient: Despite the best efforts of Hurricane Sandy, which hit only weeks after CSA made the move, the value of the Rector St. property is estimated to have more than tripled since the deal closed.

Bigger than Life

Ernie's toughness has always been tempered by a bigger-than-life personality that radiates warmth. Razor-sharp verbal sparring over educational issues is all in a day's work for a labor leader. But any offense Ernie offers his opponents during these bouts is quickly forgiven.

If Ernie won't hesitate to start a fire, he's also good at putting them out.

"Even when he's upset, you feel the joy in him," said his son James Logan, who manages a city of



■ As a child of the projects himself, Mr. Logan brought a wealth of personal experiences to his job at IS 55 in Brooklyn during the 1990s. With poverty and without heat, "Children from tenements a

New Orleans reentry program for the formerly incarcerated. "The joy comes from his faith. I don't think he could do any of this without his faith or without his wife, Bea. She is deeply religious. She's his rock. The church is what really molded him to be the trailblazer he is."

That church is Mount Cavalry Baptist Church in Harlem, where Ernie has been a member since he was born and is now a trustee and deacon. The family stuck with that church, even when his father James, a New York Central Railroad employee, moved his brood to what he hoped would be the greener pastures of Brooklyn. But his father died,

leaving his wife, Clara, to raise 13 children on public assistance in the not yet notorious projects. "The stabilizing force in my life was religion," Ernie's son said. "I never believed that everything was possible without the power of prayer."

Women as Mentors

Fourth-grade teacher Rose Alper was the woman who set Ernie on his career path. In a 224 class in East New York, Alper wrote about his father's death. "Rose's influence on me of anyone in my life

Across New York City, Former And C



Joel Klein
Former Schools Chancellor

I salute Ernest Logan and his esteemed career in public education. Ernie correctly believed – and devoted his career to the belief – that the individual school is what matters most in a child's education and that a great school required great leadership. He was a fearless champion for kids who weren't getting the education they needed and deserved. Although we disagreed from time to time, I considered him to be a valued colleague and good friend.



Letitia James
Public Advocate

Ernest Logan has long been a tireless champion for New York's children, particularly those from our most vulnerable communities. Recognizing the transformative power of education early in life, Ernest has dedicated his career to cultivating a love of learning in young people and pushing for a more just, equitable, and inclusive educational system. I've had the privilege of working with Ernest for many years and though his presence at CSA will be truly missed, I know that he will continue to be a leader in our city for years to come.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

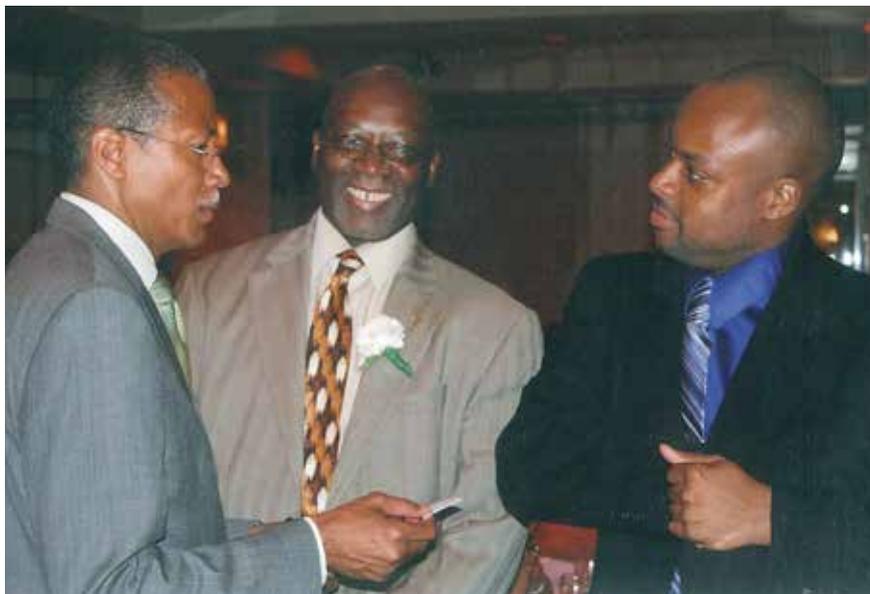
Having dedicated 44 years to public education, Ernest Logan can be described as nothing less than a passionate advocate for children, educators and public schools. He was an early champion of Pre-K for All and our partner the whole way through. He has been a huge asset to New York City and his legacy of ensuring strong principals across the City will continue to reap benefits for families.



Since I met Ernest Logan years ago, I've had the highest regard for him. His instant connection and accessible to everyone handles every issue with assurance and sensitivity. As deputy mayor, we had fascinating discussions. We didn't agree, but I had confidence he would serve students, his city, and his city. Ernest is a builder, a consensus builder, a consensus builder. Our schools have improved because of

Ernie Logan: A Prolific Tenure In NYC Schools

Downturns, Actual Hurricanes, Moving Headquarters, And The 9/11 Attacks



■ Robert Jackson, former City Councilman, Ernest Logan and his son, James Logan (right). The younger Mr. Logan is an official in New Orleans, helping ex-convicts find their footing.

at IS 201 in Brooklyn, and Carmen Fariña at PS 6 in Manhattan.

Ernie still considers his following job, Assistant Principal at JHS 263 in Brownsville, a career high point. “When you’re an AP, you’re more in touch with the children” he said. “If I walked in the streets and saw kids acting the fool, they stopped.” Raised in the Pink Houses, Ernie had a natural affinity for his students, many of whom lived in the Tilden Projects, and it stuck with him. Indeed, his CSA News columns sometimes

All the while, he was learning about his union, CSA.

“I think I had always been a union guy without knowing I was,” Ernie said, recalling how other principals once pressed him to attend union meetings. When he became a CSA field director 20 years ago, Ernie discovered he loved the work – though it took him out of direct contact with children.

“A commitment to the children of this city is why I did it,” he said of the career choice. “I figured I could use the power of the union to make many more children’s lives better.”

“Ernest was charismatic, energetic and totally committed, in an uneasy time between management and the union,” said Jill Levy, who preceded him as CSA president. “There was no question that he would be the best candidate to move on to the CSA presidency later.”

For his successor Mark Cannizzaro, Ernie became a union exemplar. “Ernie is one of a kind,” Mark said. “I consider him family and his words of wisdom will stay with me through the years ahead.

A Teacher to This Day

Current schools Chancellor Fariña said Ernie has never left the schools and is a teacher to this day. Former Chancellors Joel Klein and Dennis Walcott would probably add, “and he knows what he’s talking about.”

Accepting compliments is not Ernie Logan’s strength. Still, there was one night in 2013 when he accepted one from his then-greatest adversary, Mayor Mike Bloomberg, as the mayor told a room full of prominent New Yorkers what Ernie and CSA meant to our schools.

“He’s going to be embarrassed when I tell you this, but Ernie Logan and his members made an enormous difference” Bloomberg said. “The people Ernie represents really are the unsung heroes of this city.”

Chiara Coletti is a former CSA Communications Director.

“She is the best example of someone I never saw get angry. She could be disappointed, but always with a compassionate smile. I called her for school advice until the day she died.”

Ernie used some of what Ms. Alpert taught him when, as a new teacher, he found himself teaching an 8 am junior high school poetry class. Some of his pupils, he recalled, “were bad little (expletive deleted).” To help the students connect, Ernie wrote out the lyrics to Stevie Wonder’s songs — and saw understanding dawn in his students’ eyes. Early experiences like those helped prepare Ernie for his next job as Educational Administrator designing courses in the Office of Curriculum Development and Instruction. He reported to Charlotte Frank, now an Executive Vice president of McGraw Hill, who became another of Ernie’s cherished mentors. Ernie also learned a lot from observing Madeleine Brennan lead her teachers

focus less on labor issues than on social justice issues affecting children.

Principals Are Mayors

Those children were still his charges when Ernie was named principal at IS 55 in Ocean Hill Brownsville. Many of his students still lived in the nearby projects.

“Children from tenements are different because there’s no heat and they sleep in their clothes all winter,” Ernie said. “We had to buy coats for everybody, bring in barbers, teach them how to wash their clothes.” Ernie introduced himself to the local precinct captain, ministers, and every bodega owner in the neighborhood, handing each one of them his card with contact numbers. “That’s what principals are supposed to be,” Ernie said. “They are the mayors of their school community.”

Current Officials Pay Tribute To A Longtime Ally

Dennis Walcott
Former Schools Chancellor, and Former Deputy Mayor



Carmen Fariña
Schools Chancellor

As a former principal, I understand how CSA



Catherine Nolan
Assemblywoman

Ernest’s deep belief in the importance of collec-



Latrice Walker
Assemblywoman

There are always people in life who make



Vinnie Alvarez
President, Central Labor Council

CSA’s President Logan has

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supports school leaders and helps them better serve their students. I’ve been honored to work with Ernie as a genuine partner in education, someone who understands what it means to be a principal – a leader of much more than a school building. Ernie has brought a special commitment to building a career ladder, ensuring that great educators become school leaders. When I walk the halls of a school with him, I’m walking with an educator. His passion for improving professional development and educating all children, regardless of their background, is his legacy.

ective bargaining, now under threat, has inspired everyone fighting for the rights of educators. His work putting together a great team at CSA, his advocacy for equitable funding for students and his willingness to work with and fight the powerful on behalf of his members were obvious to everyone who cares about education. He always put the children of this city first and never hesitated to compromise if it could benefit children and their families. On a personal level, I have a deep gratitude to Ernest for encouraging my efforts as a mother of a public school student.

a lasting impression on you. One of those folks for me was my former Principal at IS 55, Ernest Logan. Through his journey as an educator, he eventually became the president at CSA, and I became a state Assemblywoman. We will be sad to lose a tireless advocate for children and social justice through education. I wish you well in retirement but your legacy will continue!

dedicated decades to educating New York City’s students and protecting the rights of his fellow educators. He is a member of the Central Labor Council’s Executive Board, where he has always been able to bring people together on issues in a very thoughtful and compelling way. I commend President Logan on his years of service, and I wish him all the best as he moves on to enjoy the fruits of his labor.



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Parting Thoughts

On Triumphs, Struggles And Choosing The Right People

As told to Chuck Wilbanks:

There have been a lot of proud moments while I've been here. The primary purpose of this organization is to fight for decent wages and working conditions for our members, so the greatest joy always centers around a contract. The one that I enjoyed the most was the one we got approved the night before our conference, and Mayor de Blasio and I walked down the steps together. Our members could see how important and dramatic it was.

One thing we don't talk about that much and probably should talk about more is the doctoral program we negotiated with Sage college. It built on what we were doing in the Executive Leadership Institute – this is something for people who want to do more on the research side. Some of their research has been phenomenal.



The darkest time was 9-11, when our offices were in Brooklyn. We were all frightened and we didn't know where we were going to be the next day. We were family though – all of us made sure everyone got home. I don't know how many people I drove home that day. And when Hurricane Sandy hit – we took the whole organization



■ At the union's 50th Anniversary Gala at the Waldorf Astoria, CSA President Ernest Logan shares a laugh with former CSA Presidents Jill Levy and Donald Singer.

and ran it remotely. We missed maybe one day of operation. I wasn't in town and Mark Cannizzaro took it and ran it. It showed real talent. When I got back, everything was running as it should. Glenda Harry was running the Welfare Fund out of her house. You look at that and it tells you about the people in this organization.

When you grew up in a house with a lot of siblings, and every week you're in church with a lot of people, you tend to learn how to interact with them. The only way you can do this is to like people. We all come with our own ticks, injuries, flaws, pet peeves and all the weird stuff we do. You see people in all their tragedies; you try to support them when they can. I



■ AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, and other labor unionists also cheered CSA at the Anniversary celebration.

truly like the people I have worked with here. Sometimes bosses just say that, but it's true.



I look back on this place and realize how much I have matured. I'm not as thin skinned as I think I used to be. I think this – retirement – has come as sort of a shock to me because I have thought about it but now I have finally done it. I'm going to miss everyone but I'm going to be working on these issues nationally, so in a way I'm not really leaving.



■ At left, Brenda Felder, an Assistant Principal who worked with Mr. Logan. To the right is then AP Mark Brodsky, who now heads CSA's Retiree Chapter.



■ It's all about the students: Mr. Logan spoke to budding New York City student entrepreneurs at the Virtual Enterprises International Trade Show in 2015.