

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Monica Jackson brings flavor to Las Vegas

By Toni Terrell
Editor in chief

What do Dorinda Clark Cole, the Winans, Fred Hammond, Judge Greg Mathis, James Earl Jones, Tom Selleck, Madonna, and Ed McMahon have in common with Las Vegas Fox 5 weekday news co-anchor Monica Jackson? They are all from the Motor City – Detroit, Michigan.

Starting at 7:00 a.m. every weekday Las Vegas residents can tune in to Fox5 News live and experience the flavor of the energetic co-anchor as she delivers the latest happenings in the entertainment capital of the world using her spiritual motto derived from her grandmother; “If you can’t take it to Jesus, don’t speak it.”

Born and raised in a primitive Baptist church, Jackson spent her K-12 educational years in Catholic schools as one of five girls - so she is no stranger to the morals and values associated with living for God. “My mother and grandmother were serious about making sure that we did not become sta-



tistics. We were not going to have teen-aged pregnancies and we were pushed to succeed,” said Jackson, a mentor to young ladies striving to earn professional careers.

Married at 18 to her high school sweetheart Delano, the wife of 22 years worked for four years - 1998-2002 - as the morning traffic anchor/feature reporter for WXYZ TV Channel 7 in Detroit. And al-

though Jackson traveled with her husband as part of his Air Force career, she didn’t let that stop her from achieving her goals.

She started out in Detroit’s top-10 market, where she received the opportunity to work for one of the top radio stations in the city – WCHB. The company originally hired her as the afternoon news anchor for the John Arnold News/Talk Show on the AM side of the station, but after only two-days on the air, management invited the energetic reporter to join the Morning Show on the FM side. “God has always blessed me with immediate opportunities for advancement,” she said.

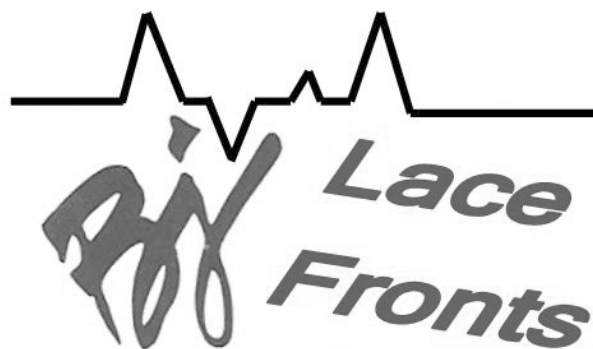
The show was an immediate success and the team known as “The Breakfast Jam” made it to the number two spot in the ratings in less than a year. In spite of her rigorous split shift, Jackson enjoyed every minute of it. “It was definitely hard work, but that is what it takes to get to where you want to be,” she admitted. “You have to be passionate about what you do,

and when you’re passionate about it, there’s no stopping you.”

Soon recognized as a talent that moves ratings, Jackson was asked to join the morning team as the in-studio traffic anchor from 1996 to 1998 by Fox 2 News in Detroit, another local station. While the popular personality accepted the offer, it only took six months on air before she was pirated away from Fox by WXYZ – another opportunity that journalists everywhere could only dream of receiving.

“I will tell anybody in this business to be prepared because it’s about timing and preparation. I always kept a suit ready, kept up with current events and made sure that I was ready to meet opportunity when it came knocking,” she said, bursting with her contagious smile.

But with all the opportunities, the experience and the testimony of doing exactly what she planned from age 13 – Jackson doesn’t discount the costs involved in the process. “It took me 20 years to get to (See Monica Jackson, Page 21)



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