

CHRISTIAN FLAGG'S LIFE

Christian Flagg profiled by **Martin Hollman, Gemora Knox, & Tyler Trapp**

Christian Flagg was born in 1989 in South Central, Los Angeles, where both sides of his family migrated from the South—Louisiana and Georgia. His grandfather got into some beef with some white folks who thought he put his hands on somebody. His grandmother was the last of 16 and all her sisters had already lived down here, so they sent for her and set her up with his grandfather. Many Black migrants moved from Louisiana & came to South Central as explained by Joshua Sides in his book, *L.A. City Limits*: "35 percent of residents were from Louisiana and 25 percent from Texas."

In the article, "The Dunbar Hotel was once the heart of Black Los Angeles" by Hadley Hearses the author says that, "By the 1920s LA already had some Black owned businesses in South Central like the Clark Hotel on Central Ave and Hotel Somerville." Christian continues to see the legacy of these businesses present in the community, noting that we still have plenty of Black owned businesses around South Central: "You see Black people in every store you walk into. You see small little businesses on every corner always selling different stuff."

Christian believes that younger kids who were born & raised in South LA sometimes have friends that don't live in the same neighborhoods. People will have a connection with Black and Latino People. A similar phenomenon is explained By Manuel Pastor & Pierrette Hongdagneu Sotelo in their book *South Central Dreams*: "However, younger generations born and raised in South LA show a greater tendency to want to foster Black & Brown solidarity especially since they have grown up, gone to school, and live in the same neighborhoods." Christian reflects: "South Central's greatest strength is its pride and boldness where everyone is proud to be from it and bold about who they are." This shows that Black and Brown people can all come together to function and fellowship without it being a problem.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gemora Knox



My name is Gemora Knox and I'm 17 years old. My family was originally born in Delhi, Louisiana but moved to South Central LA because my grandparents wanted to live in a better environment. I have been living in South Central since I was born. What stood out the most to me from my interviewee was the struggle his grandparents had to

she told us when she was little she had to sleep in a drawer. go through in life with having beef with the white folks etc. I could relate a little to my interviewee because both of our grandparents came from the South. I learned that South

Central really has a big impact on people's lives for generations. I feel like South Central's greatest strengths are the people who come together to fellowship and just have a great time. My hope for South Central is that we can just continue to grow, build and lift up our community more and make it the best it can be. What I hope for myself is to build more character and be the best sports commentator I can be.

My plans after high school is to go to college and major in journalism to be a sports commentator.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Tyler Trapp

My name is Tyler Trapp. My family is from Belize so they moved from Belize because my dad was offered a job in construction so he told my mom and my grandma that they all finna move to LA so that he can work on construction and my mom can get a job out there. I have been living in South Central for my whole 18 years.

Something that stood out to me from my interviewee was when he had said that a young Black girl had gone into the store and the store clerk had thought LaTasha Harlins was stealing so the store clerk lady shot her in the back of her head. I learned that people back in the day used to really not care.

South Central's greatest strengths are when they have small business on every corner you see people selling shirts and other things. My plans for after high school is to go to college and get my bachelors degree in teaching.