



Abdur-Rahim Briggs was born on this day in 1968. He is a respected community advocate, a philanthropist and non-profit founder, and a HIV/AIDS prevention activist. Born Marvin L. Briggs, he is a native of Los Angeles, California, and the son of Raymond Briggs, Sr. who owned his own Printing Company in South Central Los Angeles, and his mother Hazel Jean Davis (now Hazel Hill), worked for the County of Los Angeles' General Hospital (yes, the very hospital seen on the Soap Opera) as a Receptionist for 25 years, and who retired in 1995.

Abdur-Rahim Briggs is blessed with five brothers, including Mark L. Briggs, his identical

twin, Kevin D. Briggs, Raymond L. Briggs, Jr., Hilton Briggs, and Lance Briggs, who played Middle Linebacker with the Chicago Bears for 13 Seasons. He attended Centennial Senior High School where he participated in both its Marching Band and Track and Field, and where he graduated in 1986. Following High School, he enrolled in California State University, Bakersfield where he obtained his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Public Administration.

While in school, Abdur-Rahim Briggs Lettered four consecutive years in Track & Field, becoming an All-American athlete in his Senior Year of competition. He competed in the Men's 400 Meters, 800 Meters and both Men's Relay 4x100 and 4x400 Relay Teams.

After completing his undergraduate studies at California State University at Bakersfield, he relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1994 and began performing volunteer work for organizations such as Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc. where he received The Marvin E. Young Volunteer of the Year Award in 2001, the Spirit of Light Award from Mascara, Inc. in 2005, the Trailblazer Award from InCrowd International, Inc. in 2008, the Inner Light Ministries Community Service Award in 2010, the Alston-Gillard Community Service Award in 2012, the GoodLife Empowerment Award in 2013, the Welmore Cook Award from DC Black Pride in 2014 (its highest honor), the Barbara Lundy Thomas Service Award in 2014 and the Unsung Hero Award from Joy Baltimore, Inc. in 2018

Abdur-Rahim Briggs faced many challenges growing up as a Same Gender-Loving (SGL) man, but fortunately his mother served as a strong supporter of his dreams with the only expectation that he would give back to the community and is a productive citizen. There was no need to "Come Out," because he was fortunate enough to have loving role models and family in his life that already embraced him for whom he was. He says the Black SGL/LGBT community will always be important to him "Because we have so much potential; we're natural born leaders and we are providers. It's important that Black SGL/Queer men and women stand proud because we should never hide who we are, and be proud and stand tall in the truth that we are enough, we are not lacking anything".

Abdur-Rahim Briggs is the Founder and Former Executive Board President-CEO of Al Sura, Inc., which is a non-profit, and public charity foundation whose mission is to improve communication, educate and promote awareness through advocacy and empowerment, and addressing health disparities including the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Black SGL/LGBT/Queer community. He says that his work empowers many others to succeed and he shares in their success as they work to achieve their own greatness.

Al Sura, Inc. was formed September 18, 2008 for the purpose of focusing its efforts on the HIV/ AIDS epidemic in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. With the downturn in the economy and the decrease in prevention funding, the Board of Al Sura began to raise funds and awareness to address the need for prevention measures especially in the African American Community, where the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is the highest. Abdur-Rahim previously founded the Ummah Endowment Fund, Inc., which was active from 2002 to 2007.

Abdur-Rahim Briggs embraced Islam soon after he finished college. He became intrigued with the Nation of Islam, and received guidance and a copy of the Quran from Brother Jermaine X, a powerful, well mannered, knowledgeable and charismatic leader who really impressed him with his knowledge and passion for Islam. He decided however, to follow the traditional teachings derived from the Holy Quran, and converted to what is known around the world as "Sunni Islam."

What drew him to Islam was his personal hero, Malcolm X, who Abdur-Rahim Briggs says he loved "Because he walked in his truth and folks could not handle him because he spoke the truth and he transformed his life through the true teachings of Islam. As an SGL Black Man, I share personal experiences with Allah and do not need "man" to define me. I know in my heart that Allah judges us on our Deeds and Charity, which is one of the Pillars of Islam. Again, like Christianity, I share a personal relationship with Allah and remain committed to philanthropic causes in the healing and apply that belief to the LGBT Community".

The late Roy W. Roberts, II who was the former Executive Director of The Watts/Willowbrook Boys & Girls Club while he was growing up as a youth in South Central Los Angeles, California, heavily influenced his philanthropic endeavors. Even at a young age, Abdur-Rahim Briggs stood out, earning the coveted "Youth of the Year Award" in 1986 by the Watts/Willowbrook Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors.

Mr. Briggs has been a Community Advocate and Philanthropist for two decades and still going strong. In 1999 he began what was known as the "Annual White Attire Affair", which celebrated it's 15th year in 2015 to become the longest running philanthropic event in the District of Columbia's LGBT Community's history. He also created and founded Al Sura's Annual "Al Sura In Black" Event, held during Black History month in support of the organization's Mini- Grant Program. These two events are known for their elegance and quality, driven by a philanthropic purpose, and attracting the very best and brightest from Washington's creative, business, government and organizational leadership class, throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland and the

Virginia region.

In January 2016, Abdur-Rahim Briggs embarked on a new mission to accomplish his proudest achievement, the creation of Project Briggs, Inc., which he officially launched November 6, 2016. Project Briggs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) progressive independent non-profit public charity foundation whose mission is to provide leadership, improve brand building, communication, promote and to assist urban projects through innovative fundraising activities and advocacy.

For nearly 30 years of Public Service and Advocacy, Abdur-Rahim Briggs is an integral part of the Washington DC's philanthropic and political community.