



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM BOB JOHNSON FOUNDER OF BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION ON THE DEATH OF DON CORNELIUS

BETHESDA, MD//FEBRUARY 1, 2012// As the founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), I had the privilege of coming of age during the start of the "Soul Train" era and later in business had the opportunity to get to know Don personally. Although we lost Don today, his brand will live on forever.

It's a tragedy that we lost such an icon, but he will be remembered in the brand that he helped to create. I cannot think of any other person who made a greater contribution to R&B and Soul music. Don will sorely be missed.

This is a tragic and unexpected loss that will be felt around the globe. I extend my most heartfelt sympathy to the Cornelius family and his fans worldwide.

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About The RLJ Companies: *The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. The RLJ Companies seeks to target undiscovered or underserved markets then exercise solid management to achieve results. Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds majority interests in businesses operating in banking, private equity, real estate, hospitality, automobile dealerships, entertainment, and video lottery terminal (VLT) gaming. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, with affiliate operations in Charlotte, NC; Orlando, FL; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA; San Juan, PR; and Monrovia, Liberia. Prior to founding The RLJ Companies, Johnson was founder and chairman of Black Entertainment Television (BET). For more information visit www.rljcompanies.com.*

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