

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 154

Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 110th anniversary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CASE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BEYER, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WATERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 110th anniversary.

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), originally known as the Na-

tional Negro Committee, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, by a multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious, group of activists who met in a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African Americans;

Whereas the multiracial founders of the NAACP were a distinguished group of leaders in the struggle for human rights, including Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling;

Whereas the NAACP is the oldest, largest, and most widely-recognized grassroots based civil rights organization in the United States;

Whereas the NAACP has active membership units in all 50 States, including State conferences of branches and local branches as well as branches in prisons and chapters on college and high school campuses throughout our Nation and branches on military bases in Italy, Germany, Korea, and Japan;

Whereas the NAACP National Headquarters is located in Baltimore, Maryland;

Whereas the mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination;

Whereas the NAACP is committed to achieving its goals through nonviolence including negotiation, litigation, and protestation;

Whereas the NAACP advances its mission through reliance upon peaceful protest, the petition, the ballot, and the courts, and has been persistent in the use of legal and

moral persuasion, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility;

Whereas the NAACP has used political pressure, marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying to serve as the voice, as well as the shield, for minorities in the United States;

Whereas after years of fighting segregation in public schools, the NAACP, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, won one of its greatest legal victories in the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954);

Whereas, in 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, an act of courage that would serve as the catalyst for the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United States;

Whereas the NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, and 1991; the Voting Rights Act of 1965; the 1993 Motor-Voter Act; the 2002 Help America Vote Act; the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velásquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006; and the Fair Housing Act, laws that ensured Government protection for legal victories achieved;

Whereas, in 2005, the NAACP launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help hurricane survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama to rebuild their lives;

Whereas, in the 110th Congress, the NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of H. Res. 826, a resolution with resolving clauses that express that the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation, that under certain circumstances such an act can be criminal, and that such acts should be investigated thoroughly by Federal authorities and any criminal violations arising from such acts should be vigorously prosecuted;

Whereas, in 2008, the NAACP vigorously supported the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, a law that puts additional Federal resources into solving the heinous crimes that occurred in the early days of the civil rights struggle that remain unsolved and bringing those who perpetrated such crimes to justice;

Whereas, on July 16, 2009, the NAACP celebrated its centennial anniversary in New York City, highlighting an extraordinary century of Bold Dreams, Big Victories with a historic address from the first African-American President of the United States, Barack Obama;

Whereas, in 2009, the NAACP was instrumental in the enactment of the Matthew Shepard–James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which greatly expanded the legal definition of a “hate crime” and encouraged increased cooperation between Federal, State, and local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed out of hate for a group of people;

Whereas, in 2010, the NAACP, an advocate for sentencing reform, applauded the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–220; Stat. 2372), a landmark piece of legislation that reduces the quantity of crack cocaine that triggers a mandatory minimum sen-

tence for a Federal conviction of crack cocaine distribution from 100 times that of people convicted of distributing the drug in powdered form to 18 times that sentence;

Whereas throughout its existence, the NAACP has led the charge to defend the constitutional right to vote and to protect that right for all citizens of the United States, whether they be seniors, young voters, the poor, or from minority communities;

Whereas, in 2013, the NAACP signed a historic Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to put mechanisms in place to ensure that the needs of underrepresented communities are more fully integrated into future plans for disaster preparedness;

Whereas, in 2014, the NAACP was a leader in the effort to strengthen the Voting Rights Act and protect the principle of “one person, one vote”;

Whereas, in 2014, the NAACP released its groundbreaking report “Born Suspect” on racial profiling by law enforcement in the United States, which highlighted the problem of racial profiling experienced by individuals of color and communities of color;

Whereas, in 2016, the NAACP led the charge in raising awareness about and challenging voter suppression laws in Federal court across the Nation; and

Whereas, in 2017, the NAACP board unanimously elected Derrick Johnson as President and CEO as the organization re-envisioned itself to take on a tumultuous and contentious social and political climate: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Original NAACP Reso-
3 lution of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. HONORING AND PRAISING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIA-
5 TION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED
6 PEOPLE.**

7 Congress—

8 (1) recognizes the 110th anniversary of the his-
9 toric founding of the National Association for the
10 Advancement of Colored People; and

11 (2) honors and praises the National Association
12 for the Advancement of Colored People on the occa-
13 sion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the po-
14 litical, educational, social, and economic rights of all
15 persons.

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