



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1156 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

ISSUE UPDATE

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TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

The U.S. House and Senate “Honor and Praise” The NAACP on its 100th Anniversary

THE ISSUE

Both the U.S. House and the US Senate saluted the NAACP on our 100th anniversary. Recognition came with the unanimous passage of legislation (H. Con. Res. 35) by both the House and the Senate. H. Con. Res. 35 was introduced by Congressman Al Green (TX), and which passed the House by a unanimous vote of 424 yeas to 0 nays. It later passed the senate by a unanimous vote as well. Congressman Green has introduced similar resolutions every year on our anniversary and is a champion of several NAACP legislative efforts. During debate on the resolution, he said, “in the inner sanctum of my soul, I believe that although the arc of the moral universe is long, as Dr. King put it, it bends toward justice. However, I must confess that in the cognitive confines of my cranium, I know that it does so because of organizations like the NAACP.” Congressman Lamar Smith, also of Texas, said during the debate “For a century now, the NAACP has fought to bring justice and racial equality to all of America.” Congressman Sam Farr (CA) said, “...the founders of the NAACP offer an important lesson on how such a diverse group can accomplish so much. The men and women--black and white, from different backgrounds and from different careers and from different religions--these people came together to create a force for good.” Congressman Bobby Scott (VA) said “The NAACP is an organization that has made a difference from the very beginning.”

In the Senate, an identical resolution, S. Con. Res. 3 was introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (CT), also a long-time champion for the NAACP. Senator Dodd and Senator Roland Burris (IL) (who is a life-time member of the NAACP) participated in a press conference earlier this week to talk about the NAACP and the positive impact it has had on them personally and on America.

In both cases, the resolutions detailed the founding of the NAACP, much of the work that has been accomplished by the Association over the last 100 years through non-violent means, as well a several of our more recent legislative work. The resolutions ended by recognizing “the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People” and honoring and praising “the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons.”

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