

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 3

Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. REED, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this resolution as the “NAACP”), originally known as the National Negro Committee, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, by a multiracial group of activists who met in a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African-Americans;

Whereas the NAACP was founded by a distinguished group of leaders in the struggle for civil and political liberty, 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 and largest civil rights organization in the United States;

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

Whereas the NAACP is committed to achieving its goals through nonviolence;

Whereas the NAACP advances its mission through reliance upon the press, 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 minority Americans;

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, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 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 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, whose resolved clause expresses that: (1) the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation and which under certain circumstances can be criminal; (2) this conduct should be investigated thoroughly by Federal authorities; and (3) any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted; and

Whereas in 2008 the NAACP vigorously supported the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note), 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: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

1 (1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the his-
2 toric founding of the National Association for the
3 Advancement of Colored People; and

4 (2) honors and praises the National Association
5 for the Advancement of Colored People on the occa-
6 sion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the po-
7 litical, educational, social, and economic equality of
8 all persons.

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