

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 34
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H34-PCS30045-LG-1**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 4, 2009

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE NAACP'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

2 Whereas, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
3 (NAACP) was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, by a
4 multiracial group of distinguished leaders, including Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry
5 Moscowwitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling;
6 and

7 Whereas, the NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United
8 States; and

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

12 Whereas, according to the NAACP's constitution, the principal objectives of the
13 Association are:

- 14 (1) To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all
15 citizens.
- 16 (2) To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens
17 of the United States.
- 18 (3) To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes.
- 19 (4) To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing
20 civil rights.
- 21 (5) To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to
22 seek its elimination.
- 23 (6) To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful
24 action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in
25 furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of
26 Incorporation and its Constitution; and

27 Whereas, the NAACP advances its mission through the press, the petition, the
28 ballot, and the courts; and

29 Whereas, the NAACP has been persistent in achieving its goals through
30 nonviolence, using effective means such as lobbying, demonstrations, and marches; and

31 Whereas, after years of fighting segregation in public schools, the NAACP's
32 lawyers, led by Thurgood Marshall, won a great legal victory in the Supreme Court's 1954
33 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

34 Whereas, a year later in 1955, the Secretary of the Montgomery Branch of the
35 NAACP, Rosa Parks, was arrested and fined when she refused to give up her seat on a



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1 segregated bus in her hometown in Alabama, an act of courage that served as the catalyst for
2 the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United States; and

3 Whereas, the NAACP provided critical leadership and grassroots support for a
4 multiracial movement that won passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964; the
5 Voting Rights Act of 1965; the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa
6 Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of
7 2006, laws that ensured legislative protection for victories in the courts; and

8 Whereas, in 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the NAACP
9 launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida,
10 and Alabama rebuild their lives; and

11 Whereas, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who comprise the NAACP
12 have worked tirelessly on the frontlines of social, political, and economic justice; and

13 Whereas, in North Carolina the Conference of NAACP Branches has been led by
14 Kelly Alexander, Sr., Kelly Alexander, Jr., Melvin "Skip" Alston, and now Rev. Dr. William J.
15 Barber, II; and

16 Whereas, the North Carolina Conference of NAACP Branches has succeeded and
17 continues to accomplish its civil rights and social justice work with the support from Executive
18 Secretaries/Directors: Charles A. McLean, Carolyn Q. Coleman, Mary Peeler, Rev. Dr. George
19 I. Allison, James Wiggins, and now Amina Josey Turner; and

20 Whereas, the North Carolina NAACP is the largest state NAACP in the South, with
21 over 100 adult branches, youth councils, and high school and college chapters across the width
22 and breadth of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

23 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

24 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of those who founded the
25 NAACP for their vision and the service they rendered our nation and State.

26 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the NAACP, the oldest civil
27 rights organization in the nation, on its 100th anniversary and expresses appreciation for its
28 significant contributions to social change.

29 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
30 resolution to the President of the North Carolina Conference of NAACP Branches.

31 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.