

By Senators Hill and Joyner

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2009662

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 12, 2009, as "NAACP Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, beginning with the moral conscience and guiding principles of Dr. William Edward Burghardt Dubois, Henry Moskowitz, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the "NAACP," was founded on February 12, 1909, in New York City, with 60 signatories forming the creation of a civil rights organization that has built a 100-year legacy of constantly challenging the tenets of social unrest, racial hatred, racial inequality, and economic and political injustice, and

WHEREAS, a call was led by abolitionist Mary White Ovington following the summer of 1908, when citizens were shocked by the account of race riots in Springfield, Illinois, the home of Abraham Lincoln, where a mob of the town's "best citizens" raged lawlessly for two days, killing and wounding scores of African Americans, sparing neither sex nor age nor youth and driving thousands from the city, and

WHEREAS, in the years that followed, in open acceptance of the disenfranchisement of millions, the Supreme Court of the United States, supposedly a bulwark of American liberties, passed laws avowedly discriminatory and enforced in such a manner that African-American citizens were not recognized as human beings, and

WHEREAS, records reflect that, during these times of racial hatred and discrimination, African Americans were ineligible to

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30 vote, assemble, and share the same public accommodations and
31 educational institutions as their white counterparts, and

32 WHEREAS, in 1905, the Niagara Movement, an organization of
33 people of color formed by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois from Atlanta
34 University, held conferences at Niagara, Harper's Ferry, and
35 Boston, the platform of which consisted of freedom of speech and
36 criticism; an unfettered and unsubsidized press; manhood
37 suffrage; the abolition of all caste distinctions based simply
38 on race and color; the recognition of the principle of human
39 brotherhood as a practical, present creed; the recognition of
40 the highest and best training as the monopoly of no class or
41 race; a belief in the dignity of labor; and a united effort to
42 realize these ideals under wise and courageous leadership, and

43 WHEREAS, on February 12, 1909, the National Negro
44 Committee, an organization that emerged from the Niagara
45 Movement, was founded in New York City and, at their second
46 conference on May 30, 1910, chose the name the National
47 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and

48 WHEREAS, in 1910, Dr. W.E.B. Dubois assumed the role of
49 Director of Publicity and Research for the NAACP and created The
50 Crisis magazine, the official magazine of the NAACP, to serve as
51 the premier literary publication advocating for civil rights,
52 and

53 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of
54 Education in 1954 allowed for the integration of public schools
55 and is recognized as the pinnacle of the NAACP's advocacy work,
56 laying the foundation for future progress in civil and human
57 rights in the United States, and

58 WHEREAS, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

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59 further removed segregation and apartheid in the United States,
60 permitting once disenfranchised people of color to gain access
61 to the "American Dream" through the equal protection of the law,
62 and

63 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 granted African
64 Americans the right to vote with the necessary protections and
65 safeguards against historical barriers of exclusion, and

66 WHEREAS, throughout its 100-year history, the NAACP has
67 been instrumental in social, economic, educational, and
68 political gains for a once disenfranchised race of people,
69 establishing itself as the oldest civil rights organization in
70 our nation, committed to the ongoing struggle against
71 disparities in these areas through a network of 2,200 branches
72 currently exceeding 500,000 members, and

73 WHEREAS, the NAACP Florida State Conference, through its 32
74 branches, continues the national and local fight for equality
75 and justice for people of color, whether it be through honoring
76 the lives of Harry T. or Harriett Moore or obtaining justice for
77 Martin Lee Anderson, NOW, THEREFORE,

78

79 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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81 That the Senate, in recognition of the organization's
82 countless historical contributions to the United States of
83 America and the state of Florida over the past century as the
84 champion for justice and racial equality for all citizens, duly
85 strengthening the Constitutions of the state of Florida and the
86 United States of America, commends the National Association for
87 the Advancement of Colored People and its 32 Florida branches

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88 and proudly recognizes February 12, 2009, as "NAACP Day" in
89 Florida.