

HR 9141

2009

House Resolution

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

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

WHEREAS, following the summer of 1908, when citizens were shocked by race riots in Springfield, Illinois, the home of Abraham Lincoln, abolitionist Mary White Ovington issued a call to renew the struggle for political and civil liberty for all Americans, and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 1909, beginning with the moral conscience and guiding principles of Dr. William Edward Burghardt Dubois, Mary White Ovington, Henry Moskowitz, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling, the National Negro Committee was formed to address the social, economic, and political rights of African Americans, and

HR 9141

2009

28 WHEREAS, records reflect that, during these times of racial
29 hatred and discrimination, African Americans were ineligible to
30 vote, assemble, and share the same public accommodations and
31 educational institutions as their white counterparts, and

32 WHEREAS, on May 30, 1910, the National Negro Committee, at
33 its second conference, chose the name the "National Association
34 for the Advancement of Colored People," commonly referred to as
35 the "NAACP," forming a civil rights organization that has built
36 a 100-year legacy of constantly challenging the tenets of social
37 unrest, racial hatred, racial inequality, and economic and
38 political injustice, and

39 WHEREAS, in 1910, Dr. W.E.B. Dubois assumed the role of
40 Director of Publicity and Research for the NAACP and created The
41 Crisis magazine, the official magazine of the NAACP, to serve as
42 the premier literary publication advocating for civil rights,
43 and

44 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of
45 Education in 1954 allowed for the integration of public schools
46 and is recognized as the pinnacle of the NAACP's advocacy work,
47 laying the foundation for future progress in civil and human
48 rights in the United States, and

49 WHEREAS, the NAACP played an active role in the passage of
50 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
51 allowing people of color to gain access to the "American Dream"
52 through the equal protection of the law, and the right to vote
53 with the necessary protections and safeguards against historical
54 barriers of exclusion, and

HR 9141

2009

55 WHEREAS, throughout its 100-year history, the NAACP has
56 established itself as the oldest civil rights organization in
57 our nation, committed to the ongoing struggle against
58 disparities in these areas through a network of 2,200 branches
59 currently exceeding 500,000 members, and

60 WHEREAS, the NAACP Florida State Conference, through its 32
61 branches, continues the national and local fight for equality
62 and justice for people of color, whether it be through honoring
63 the legacy of Harry T. Moore or by using political pressure,
64 marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying to serve as the
65 voice, as well as the shield, for minority Americans, NOW,
66 THEREFORE,

67
68 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
69 Florida:

70
71 That the House of Representatives, in recognition of the
72 organization's countless historical contributions to the United
73 States of America and the State of Florida over the past
74 century, commends the National Association for the Advancement
75 of Colored People and its 32 Florida branches and proudly
76 designates February 12, 2009, as "NAACP Day" in Florida.