

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

Sponsors: Representatives Pierce, Alexander, Farmer-Butterfield, and Floyd (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to:

February 13, 2013

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE NAACP ON THE
2 OCCASION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
4 (NAACP) was founded on February 12, 1909, in New York City; and

5 Whereas, the NAACP's founders consisted of a multiracial group of activists,
6 including Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington,
7 Oswald Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling; and

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

11 Whereas, according to the NAACP's constitution, some of the organization's
12 objectives include removing all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes;
13 seeking enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights; and
14 informing the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and how to take lawful
15 action to help eliminate racial discrimination; and

16 Whereas, the NAACP advances its mission through the press, the petition, the
17 ballot, and the courts; and

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

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

23 Whereas, a year later in 1955, the Secretary of the Montgomery Branch of the
24 NAACP, Rosa Parks, was arrested and fined when she refused to give up her seat on a
25 segregated bus in her hometown in Alabama, an act of courage that served as the catalyst for
26 the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United States; and

27 Whereas, the NAACP provided critical leadership and grassroots support for a
28 multiracial movement that won passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964; the
29 Voting Rights Act of 1965; the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa
30 Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of
31 2006, laws that ensured legislative protection for victories in the courts; and

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



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

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

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

10 Whereas, the North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP is the one of the largest state
11 NAACP in the South, with over 100 adult branches, youth councils, and high school and
12 college chapters across the width and breadth of North Carolina; and

13 Whereas, for the last seven years, the North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP has
14 held an annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) People's Assembly to bring about
15 awareness of social, political, and economic injustices in the State; and

16 Whereas, the assembly held on February 9, 2013, attracted thousands of participants
17 from all across the State, including representatives of 140 coalition groups; Now, therefore,
18 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

19 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of those who founded the
20 NAACP and expresses appreciation for their vision and the service to our nation and State.

21 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses appreciation for its significant
22 contributions to social change.

23 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
24 resolution to the President of the North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP.

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