



**2007 National Delegates Assembly
Blacks In Government®
Resolutions Adopted in Nashville, Tennessee**



In support of a National Holiday Observance of Juneteenth

Whereas, for more than 137 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance in the United States. Also known as “Emancipation Day”, “Emancipation Celebration”, “Freedom Day”, “Jun-Jun”, “Juneteenth Independence Day” and “Juneteenth.” Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due to God given strength and determination, of African-Americans, who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the “Middle Passage”; and

Whereas, approximately eleven and one-half million African-Americans survived the voyage to the New World, the number that died is likely greater, only to be subjected to whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. For the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration, Juneteenth has finally been “officially recognized” as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

Whereas, this reality is particularly underscored by the fact that it was in the first session of the 105th Congress via the bipartisan cooperation of the Former Congresswoman Barbara Rose-Collins (D-Michigan), Former Senator Carol Mosely-Braun (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma), Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), that Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 were successfully shepherded through both Houses of Congress, in a successful effort to officially recognize Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent in 1997; and

Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries-of-origin, share in a common love of and respect for “*freedom*”, as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the “*tenets-of-freedom*” are guaranteed and protected. The “19th of June” or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the “4th of July”, completes the “*cycle of freedom*” for America’s Independence Day observances. “*Until All are Free, None are Free*” is an oft repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is sponsoring the premier celebration, concert, worship services and campaign to commemorate America's 2nd Independence Day Observance, the "19th of June", as one which completes the cycle of America's 18th century Independence Movement, initiated with the "4th of July", 1776 "Declaration of Independence" and to recognize this country's movement towards a "One America", advanced by a sincere dialogue of the realization of what Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial healing, restoration and justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

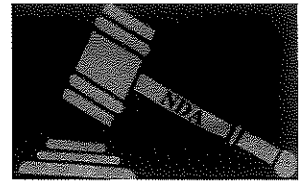
- (1) that the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters hereby adopt this resolution in support of the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign and encourages participation of our members, families and communities in the Annual Washington Juneteenth National Holiday Observance, on the National Mall, Lincoln Memorial and U.S. Capital Grounds, during the week of the "19th of June" in Washington, DC;
- (2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States; the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, and
- (3) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Founder & Chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation and to John Thompson, Founder and Chief Operating Officer of the Juneteenth America, Inc.

Submitted by:

Ralph F. Browne, Jr.
Middlesex Chapter, Region 1
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Support for Social Security Fairness Act 2007

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976 to address the collective needs of African Americans in public service and to organize around issues of mutual concern and use collective strengths in confronting workplace and community issues, and

WHEREAS, BIG is the nation's oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization dedicated to the eradication of all vestiges of racism and disparate treatment practices perpetrated upon people, and its goals are to promote equity in all aspects of America life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all Americans, and

WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) are amendments to the Social Security law that lower the retirement income of Federal employees by altering the Social Security benefit formula for certain groups, and

WHEREAS, the reduction of retirement income for those now affected by the GPO or the WEP can escalate to a loss of their entire Social Security benefits, and

WHEREAS, the GPO affects Federal retirees who were covered solely by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and caused a reduction or sometimes an outright elimination of Social Security survivors' and/or spouses' benefits, and

WHEREAS, the GPO prohibits Federal retirees from collecting both a full CSRS annuity based upon his or her own government employment and full Social Security benefits they are entitled to as a surviving spouse. The GPO formula cuts a Social Security spousal benefit by two-thirds for those retired government workers who would receive Social Security benefits as a surviving spouse, and

WHEREAS, the victims of GPO are largely elderly women who retired as public employees entitled to CSRS benefits and who are also the widows of private sector employees. If these women had spent their careers anywhere but in civil service, they would be entitled to full, unreduced Social Security spousal or survivor benefits, and

WHEREAS, the WEP affects Social Security benefits of both Federal men and women retirees. The Social Security retiree benefit formula provides a greater percentage of pre-retirement earnings to low-wage workers than it does to higher-wage workers, and

WHEREAS, some Federal retirees earned low wages during the period of their careers they spent in Social Security covered employment and later earned much higher salaries during their Federal careers. Had the wages from both employments been covered by

Social Security, they would have produced lower benefits as a percentage of both early and later years, and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Congress decided that the Social Security benefits of individuals who fit the profile described above should be lowered because the assumption of low lifetime earnings were false and thus created the WEP. The WEP lowers the indexing factor used to adjust wages depending on the number of years spent in Social Security covered employment, and

WHEREAS, using the following examples because the WEP is confusing and mislabeled; 1) those with 30 years or more of Social Security covered employment are not affected by WEP, while those with between 21 and 29 covered years, lose varying amounts. 2) However, those with 20 or fewer years of Social Security covered employment are affected more dramatically and they may face having their Social Security benefits reduced as much as 60%.

BE IT RESOLVED, during the 2007 National Delegates Assembly, we agree to show our support for the Social Security Fairness Act introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill 206 and the companion bill of the House of Representative as HR 82.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, BIG will work in coalition with all advocate groups that support the Social Security Act of 2007 which enact legislation to restore to Federal workers and their spouses pensions they have earned that were wrongfully taken from them.

FURTHER BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that within 90 days after this resolution is passed the National President of Blacks In Government sends a letter to the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on behalf of Blacks In Government's 2007 Delegates Assembly showing our support for the Social Security Act of 2007 and thanking those members of Congress who introduced both bills (SB 206 and HR 82) on behalf of Federal workers.

Submitted by:

Yolanda M. Brown-Harris
Assistant Treasurer, Region V
Secretary, Columbus Area Chapter
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A Commemoration Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen

Whereas, in 1941 a group of young Black men were allowed to be trained as fighter pilots for the very first time in the United States, and

Whereas, March, 2007 marked the 66th anniversary of that event, and

Whereas, those students were trained on an airfield built especially for that purpose in Tuskegee, Alabama, and

Whereas, those Black fighter pilots serving their military obligations later became some of the most distinguished members of Blacks in government, and

Whereas, those Black fighter pilots flew countless combat missions in World War II, and

Whereas, in 1972 those fighter pilots gave themselves the name, the Tuskegee Airmen, and

Whereas, the Association, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. was formed to preserve their legacy and to promote aviation among Black youths, and

Whereas, on March 29, 2007, the original airmen, which consisted of 994 members, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government gives honor and recognizes the monumental efforts, hardships and accomplishments that the Tuskegee Airmen made to lift the veil of discrimination in the military, specifically and for civil service government employees, generally.

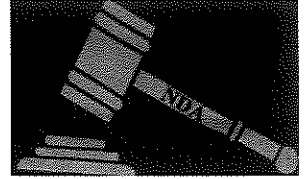
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States; the Congressional Black Caucus; Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.; the Gallery of Iron Eagles; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and Tuskegee University.

Submitted by:

Wesley Jarmon, President
FCC-Benjamin Hooks Chapter
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To Address Racial Profiling

Whereas, Since 1993, racial profiling has made national headlines in New Jersey, Maryland and many other states including but not limited to Arizona, Connecticut, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Texas and West Virginia for the inappropriate targeting of minorities by law enforcement officers, and

Whereas, Racial Profiling is any police or private security practice in which a person is treated as a suspect because of his or her race, ethnicity, nationality or religion. This occurs when police investigate, stop, frisk, search or use force against a person based on such characteristics instead of evidence of a person's criminal behavior. It often involves the stopping and searching of people of color for traffic violations, known as "DWB" or "driving while black or brown", and

Whereas, Racial profiling can consist of pedestrian stops, "gang" databases, bicycle stops, use of police attack dogs, suspicion at stores and malls, immigration worksite raids, harassment on the way to polls, "voting while black or brown" and security checks of passengers by customs and airport officials, and

Whereas, Racial profiling has been reported by respected members of communities of color, such as police commanders, prosecutors, judges, state legislators, lawyers, dentists and even representatives in Congress, and.

Whereas, While racial profiling is illegal, a 1996 Supreme Court decision allows police to stop motorists and search their vehicles of motorists under suspicion of trafficking illegal drugs or weapons, and

Whereas, Tens of thousands of innocent drivers, pedestrians, and shoppers across the country are victims of racial profiling. These discriminatory police stops and searches have reached epidemic proportions in recent years - fueled by the "War on Drugs" and the "War on Terror" that have given police a pretext to target people they think fit a "drug courier," "gang member," or "terrorist" profile. In fact, racial profiling is the first step in a long road that leads to the heavily disproportionate incarceration of people of color, especially young men, for drug-related crimes, and of Arabs, Muslims and South Asians for suspicion of terrorism. This occurs despite the fact that people of color are no more likely than whites to use or sell drugs, and Arabs Muslims and South Asians are no more likely than whites to be terrorists, and.

Whereas, Racial Profiling: 1) undermined important terrorist investigations in the U.S., 2) tips off criminal networks about who needs to be recruited in order to be more successful, 3) is a proven failure in the 'WAR ON DRUGS', and 4) encourages hate and undermines national unity.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

- (1) that this body encourage the National President of Blacks In Government to join the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in their support of the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007 (ERPA) scheduled to be introduced in the coming weeks by co-sponsors Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Representative John Conyers (D-MI);
- (2) that this will prohibit federal law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling and encourage states to adopt the same type of ban on the practice;
- (3) that this legislation will also permit victims of racial profiling to take legal action and require states to establish procedures for victims to file complaints against police officers who racially profile;
- (4) that this bill provides data collection demonstration and best practice incentive grants to state and local law enforcement agencies, and
- (5) that a written copy of this resolution be mailed to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader, American Civil Liberties Union, Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Representative John Conyers (D-MI).

Submitted by:

Palmer T. Doiley, Region 1 Representative, National Board of Directors
Greater Boston Chapter and
Region 1 Council Officers and Representatives
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