



Resolution

A collective voice against the Privatization of Social Security

WHEREAS, One of National Blacks in Government's goals is to accomplish the collective addressing of issues pertaining to the quality of life for persons in public service, and

WHEREAS, A local chapter is encouraged, through vigilance and analytical research, to enable those goals by submitting concerns on issues that may have grave consequences for the Blacks in Government constituency specifically and the nation as a whole, and

WHEREAS, The Bush Administration is proposing drastic changes to the Social Security System to include reduced benefits for future recipients and investment of a portion of their benefits in the stock market, and the cost to implement said proposal has been estimated at \$2 trillion, and

WHEREAS, The Greater Indianapolis Chapter has already submitted letters to the Indiana Congressional legislators, voicing our dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration's attempts to privatize Social Security, and

WHEREAS, It is the Chapter's belief that the National Blacks In Government can achieve greater impact speaking at a higher level, on behalf of a greater constituency; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the National President of Blacks in Government shall prepare and submit a position paper to Congress, stating that the organization is opposed to the privatization of Social Security; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That this action shall take place no later than August 25, 2005 in order to be considered by Congress.

Submitted by:

The Greater Indianapolis Chapter-Blacks in Government, Region V
Lorraine Marshall, President



26th National Delegates' Assembly
Blacks In Government, Incorporated
2005 Resolutions--Orlando, Florida



Resolution

"Global War on Terrorism"
(Conflict in Iraq)

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government (BIG) strongly supports the members of the United States Armed Forces who are being called to serve in hostile foreign areas, and many are required to serve beyond their initial commitment, and

WHEREAS, The "global war on terrorism" and military occupation of all hostile areas including Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in the loss of more than 1,800 military personnel, with the wounding and disabling of thousands more Americans and citizens in those affected areas in other nations, and

WHEREAS, The cost of the "global war on terrorism" and occupations in Iraq alone has exceeded \$200 billion, and when combined with the costs in other hostile areas, the President's Budget has resulting cuts in domestic programs including education, social and human services, and even benefits to veterans, and

WHEREAS, The return of American troops from these hostile areas will be met with mixed circumstances based on the current employment and housing concerns in urban and rural America, and limited resources for medical, and rehabilitation needs; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That Blacks In Government call upon the Bush Administration to assure that all government workers in hostile areas shall have all personal protective gear, equipment, training, and other resources necessary to complete these mandated missions; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That Blacks In Government serve notice that we stand in solidarity with our men and women in harms way, and send this resolution as a reminder that foreign aid and military spending must not cripple domestic programs and services that support returning military and civilian personnel; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That this resolution and a letter signed by the National President of Blacks in Government be sent to the President of the United States, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and copies be made available for distribution by Blacks In Government representatives to state and local officials.

Submitted by:

The Greater Indianapolis Chapter of Blacks In Government, Region V
Lorraine Marshall, President



26th National Delegates' Assembly
Blacks In Government, Incorporated
2005 Resolutions--Orlando, Florida



Resolution

Abolishment of the Death Penalty in America

WHEREAS, Amnesty International USA and the NAACP Legal Defense, Inc. have done extensive research which shows that the death penalty is cruel and racially bias in applications in America and certainly not a deterrent to crime, and

WHEREAS, The poignant aspect and a concern to all African Americans is that we are disproportionately placed on death row and even worse, put-to-death more frequently compared to all others on death row, and

WHEREAS, A systemic racial bias in the application of the death penalty exists at both the state and federal level, a moratorium on the death penalty is needed to address this miscarriage of justice. The jurisdictions with the highest percentages of minorities on its death row are:

U.S. Military	(86%)
Colorado	(80%)
U.S. Government	77%)
Louisiana	(72%)
Pennsylvania	(70%)

WHEREAS, While white victims account for approximately one-half of all murder victims, 80% of all Capital cases involve white victims. Furthermore, as of October 2002, 12 people have been executed where the defendant was white and the murder victim black, compared with 178 black defendants executed for murders with white victims, and

WHEREAS, More than 114 people have been exonerated from death row since 1972, including 23 from the state of Florida alone (Death Penalty Information Center), and

WHEREAS, Capital punishment is irrevocable, and the errors of justice cannot be rectified. Black Americans are affected more than all other races. All possibility of reconsideration is taken away. Innocent persons have been hanged, and judge, jury, and the whole legal machinery involved have thereby been made privy to the very crime they sought to punish. Black Americans are affected in a larger number than the rest of the population. In view of the very uncertain and unequal character of our merely human endeavors to mete out justice, no proceedings of ours should be of this irrevocable character, and

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 support the Abolishment of the Death Penalty in America; and
- (2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (3) That a written copy also be delivered to the Supreme Court Chief Justice and Attorney General of the United States.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter



Resolution

Support Human Rights in the Sudan

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government, along with the rest of the world, has watched the deplorable conditions and violence of war unfold in Sudan, we believe the situation in Sudan should be resolved immediately, and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International (AI) is a grassroots organization with 1.5 million members worldwide working to promote and defend human rights, and

WHEREAS, According to an AI Brief Issue No. 26 dated, September 2004, titled, '*Saving Darfur: US Must Press African Union For Action*', at least 2.2 million people have been impacted by the crisis in Darfur: 50,000 have died, 1.4 million have been displaced, and thousands of women have been raped. Over 100 villages have been destroyed and it is estimated up to 350,000 people would soon die, and

WHEREAS, Ending the crisis in Darfur demands addressing both the humanitarian and human rights crisis simultaneously and requires more leadership from the African Union (AU) and more resources direction from the international community including the United States, and

WHEREAS, The United States should divest its public pension funds from US companies and from foreign companies doing business in and with the Government of Sudan, and

WHEREAS, Failure to take these actions will doom hundreds of thousands to death, and

WHEREAS, All parties have committed abuses, Amnesty reports indicate the Janjawid and government forces have been the primary abusers. Janjawid raiders have committed rape (often in public and in front of family members and around camps for the internally displaced), torture, extra-judicial executions and the looting or torching of livestock. The Sudanese armed forces have conducted indiscriminate aerial bombardment and have diverted or blocked humanitarian assistance, and

WHEREAS, Last August, the government of Sudan agreed to the deployment of a further 2,000 troops but on the condition that it choose what countries these forces will come from and that the troops be used solely to ensure the decampment and disarmament of rebel forces, and

WHEREAS, The rebels have rejected the stipulation. The United Nations (UN) gave the Sudanese government a 30-day deadline by which it was to facilitate humanitarian aid, disarm the Janjawid, and bring human rights violators to justice. A UN report measuring the government's compliance had concluded that while there has been progress with humanitarian aid, overall security had not improved, and

WHEREAS, The UN is considering next steps. The people of Darfur need food and protection now. The AU should do much more but lacks the capacity and will to do what is necessary. The United States can and must help the AU to save lives, and

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government supports the Amnesty International 'USA' recommendations as follows:

- Expand the mandate and capacity of the ceasefire security forces to protect all civilians and ensure access to humanitarian relief supplies;
- Prevent Janjawid militia from serving as police, military camp security, and humanitarian personnel in Darfur and Chad;

- Ensure all Internally Displaced Persons camps have female officers trained to deal with gender-based violence;
- Demand that Sudan bring persons who committed rape and murder to justice;
- Press Sudan's government to demobilize and disarm the Janjawed immediately and to extend the mandate of a commission of inquiry to investigate abuses by persons in armed opposition groups and the armed forces, and

WHEREAS, BIG is calling upon the U.S. government to take a proactive and leading role in the effort to end the violence in Sudan. We support the recent decision by President George W. Bush to send a high-ranking diplomat to Sudan; however, the United States must act swiftly to protect the people of Sudan in order to prevent genocide and commit to the United Nations with at least one-third of the contributions required in humanitarian assistance to meet the urgent need in the Sudan; and

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 support the protection of human rights in the Sudan along with Amnesty International 'USA'; and
- (2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter



26th National Delegates' Assembly
Blacks In Government, Incorporated
2005 Resolutions--Orlando, Florida



Resolution

Racial Profiling is Violation of Human Rights for Black Americans

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government defines racial profiling as the targeting of individuals and groups by law enforcement officials, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion, and

WHEREAS, The most common example of police racial profiling is "DWB", otherwise known as "driving while black", and

WHEREAS, Figures gathered in Ohio seem to show that blacks received traffic citations at a rate 1.5 times their portion of the population, and

WHEREAS, In a New Jersey case, prosecutors filed a motion to dismiss charges against 21 people arrested by two state troopers accused of singling out minority drivers for traffic stops, and

WHEREAS, As documented in the Amnesty International 'USA' (AIUSA) report, Threat and Humiliation: Racial Profiling, National Security, and Human Rights in the United States, the United States continues to use race, color, ethnicity, national origin and religion as a proxy for criminal suspicion, in violation of international treaties to which it is party, and

WHEREAS, The clear alternative is for law enforcement to focus on actual criminal behavior rather than characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality, and

WHEREAS, Victims of racial profiling are sometimes further victimized by acts of police violence and brutality as in the case of Santiago, an epileptic black man who wore dreadlocks, was killed because police automatically assumed that a black man seizing on the floor must be on drugs, and

WHEREAS, A survey by the Department of Justice in 1999 revealed that while officers disproportionately focused on African American and Latino drivers, found drugs more often when they searched whites (17%) than when they searched African Americans (8%), and

WHEREAS, A similar survey in New Jersey found that although people of color were searched more frequently, state troopers found drugs in vehicles driven by whites 25% of the time, by African Americans 13%, and by Latinos 5%, and

WHEREAS, According to a study of the U.S. Customs Service's practice by Lamberth Consulting, when Customs agents stopped using racial profiling to target potential smugglers and began focusing on race-neutral factors such as behavior, they increased the rate of productive searches by more than 300%, and

WHEREAS, Racial profiling violates international standards against non-discrimination and multiple treaties to which the United States is party, including the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); and

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 support the protection of human rights for Black Americans by eliminating Racial Profiling and supports the efforts of Amnesty International 'USA' against Racial Profiling; and

(2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States; and

(3) That a written copy also be delivered to the Supreme Court Chief Justice and Attorney General of the United States.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter



Resolution

Appeal of the U.S.A. Patriot Act

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government calls upon Congress to immediately repeal or to extensively revise Public Law 107-56, also known as the "U.S.A. Patriot Act", in order to restore and protect our nation's fundamental civil liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, We object to the particular provisions of the Act and to other laws and executive orders which allow for:

- Racial or ethnic profiling, secret detentions, and the "rendition" of persons to foreign countries,
- Investigation, surveillance, or monitoring of individuals or groups, such as gun owners, religious groups, or political activists, based on their participation in activities protected by the First or Second Amendments, without reasonable suspicion of criminal activity,
- The indefinite incarceration of any person based on immigration status or on mere suspicion of terrorist activity,
- "Sneak and Peek" searches pursuant to Section 213 of the Act, and others laws which subvert the protections guaranteed by Amendments IV and V of the Constitution,
- And all sections of the Act affecting libraries, research facilities, and educational institutions and their records; and

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 support the repeal or to extensively revise Public Law 107-56, also known as the "U.S.A. Patriot Act"; and
- (2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (3) That a written copy also be delivered to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter



Resolution

Suspend Police Abuse in the Use of Tasers

WHEREAS, More than 5,000 US law enforcement agencies are currently deploying tasers, dart-firing electro-shock weapons designed to cause instant incapacitation by delivering a 50,000 volt shock, and

WHEREAS, Tasers are hand-held electronic stun guns which fire two barbed darts up to a distance of 21 feet, which remain attached to the gun by wires. The fish-hook like darts are designed to penetrate up to two inches of the target's clothing or skin and deliver a high-voltage, low amperage, electro-shock along insulated copper wires, and

WHEREAS, There is a growing number of fatalities involving police tasers. Since 2001, more than 100 people are reported to have died in the United States of America and Canada after being struck by M26 or X26 tasers, with the numbers rising each year, and

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government agrees with Amnesty International that the following should be put in place immediately:

- ❖ Suspend all transfers and use of tasers and other electro-shock weapons pending a rigorous, independent and impartial inquiry into their use and effects. Such an inquiry should be carried out by acknowledged medical, scientific, legal and law enforcement experts who are independent of commercial and political interests in promoting such equipment.
- ❖ They should rigorously assess their medical and other effects in terms of international human rights standards regulating the treatment of prisoners and use of force; the inquiry should include the systematic examination of all known cases of deaths and injury involving the use of such weapons and also consider the mental impact of being subjected to electro-shock.
- ❖ The study should recommend strict rules, safeguards and oversight procedures to prevent misuse of any types of electro-shock equipment that may be viewed as having a legitimate use in law enforcement.
- ❖ A report of the findings of such an inquiry should be made public promptly after completion of the study; and

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 support the protection of human rights for Black Americans by eliminating the abuse of Law Enforcement use of Tasers supports the efforts of Amnesty International 'USA' against Police Taser Abuse; and
- 2) That the National Organization of Blacks in Government through its National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee, all regions and chapters support a stop to the abuse or taser use by law enforcement; and
- (3) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (4) That a written copy also be delivered to the Attorney General of the United States.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter



26th National Delegates' Assembly
Blacks In Government, Incorporated
2005 Resolutions--Orlando, Florida



Resolution

Commemorative Coin Honoring the Little Rock Nine

WHEREAS, September 2007, marks the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, In 1957, Little Rock Central High School was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the historic decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and

WHEREAS, The courage of the "Little Rock Nine", who stood in the face of violence, was influential in the Civil Rights movement and changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality, and

WHEREAS, Senators Mark Pryor and Blanche Lincoln have introduced Senate Bill 582 and Representative Victor Snyder has introduced H.R. Bill 358 in House of Representatives to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, A commemorative coin will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Blacks In Government support Senate Bill 582 and H.R. Bill 358 and urge all members of the Senate and House to become co-sponsors of these significant pieces of legislation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That Blacks In Government encourage our members to purchase the commemorative coins when they become available.

Submitted by:

Central Arkansas Chapter
Greater Little Rock Chapter
USDA-Arkansas Chapter
of Blacks In Government



Resolution

Support legislation honoring Seaman Doris Miller for the "Congressional Medal of Honor"

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 American life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all Americans, and

WHEREAS, The National President and the National Executive Committee (NEC) have endorsed the support of the legislation introduced by U.S. Representative Johnson. Also, the NEC endorsed the petition campaign to collect signatures from U.S. citizens, initiated by the National President of the Links Organization, urging Congress to support the legislation to honor with the "Congressional Medal of Honor" and issuing a U.S. Commemorative Stamp acknowledging heroism at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That during the 2005 National Delegates Assembly now in session, give a standing ovation to the NEC for recognizing the contributions of African Americans, adhering to the collective bargaining power of BIG; and

BE IT RESOLVED, BIG will support the national legislation by supporting the national petition campaign during the 27th Annual National Training Conference and encourage conference attendees to sign-the-national petition supporting the proposed legislation for the Congressional Medal of Honor and Commemorative US Postal Stamp honoring seaman Doris Miller; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, BIG Chapters are encouraged to continue with the petition signing at their respective chapters to collect a minimum of 1,000 signatures per chapter in their respective communities including their place of work. Petitions are to be mailed to the National Legislative Committee by December 1, 2005. The effort will represent a collective response from Blacks In Government to the National Links Organization before the December 31, 2005, deadline.

Submitted by:

U.S. Department of Energy Chapter, Blacks In Government
Karen Griffin, First Vice President, Region XI

Navy Yard Chapter, Blacks In Government
Joyce Taylor, Chapter President, Region XI



26th National Delegates' Assembly
Blacks In Government, Incorporated
2005 Resolutions--Orlando, Florida



Resolution

Taxation Without Representation for the District of Columbia

WHEREAS, Citizens of the District of Columbia (DC) pay federal income taxes and "state" taxes and have fought in every war since the Revolutionary War, and

WHEREAS, This Congress, which purports to value states' rights, denies the District complete self-governance and maintains the ability to overturn DC laws and dictate how DC monies are spent, and

WHEREAS, Since DC citizens are not represented in the U.S. Senate and have a non-voting Delegate, they have limited control over how their tax dollars are spent, and

WHEREAS, The District is allotted three votes in the Electoral College to vote for the President, the number does not correspond with DC's population, and

WHEREAS, The District's delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, introduced the "No Taxation without Representation Act" that would provide DC with two Senators and one Representative in Congress, and

WHEREAS, Voting is a fundamental right of a democracy, (Moving Ideas, com), and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American States (OAS) has declared that DC's lack of Congressional representation is an International Human Rights violation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has called for the U.S. government to grant equal voting rights to DC residents, and

WHEREAS, Every person having legal capacity is entitled to participate in the government of his country, directly or through his representatives, and to take part in popular elections, which shall be by secret ballot, and shall be honest, periodic and free, and

WHEREAS, four pieces of legislation have been proposed in Congress to address the DC voting rights issue and none have passed, and

WHEREAS, Residents of the Nation's capital are systematically denied equal representation in the national legislature, and

WHEREAS, All of these policies have a disproportionate effect on minorities; and

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 support the rights of DC residents to have representation with equal voting rights in Congress; and
- (2) That a written copy of this resolution be delivered to the President and Vice President of the United States; and
- (3) That copies also be delivered to the House of Representatives, the Senate, Mayor Anthony Williams of the District of Columbia, and the District's delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National First Vice President
Ronald H. Brown Chapter

