



**Women's History Month:** The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, California. The week including March 8, International Women's Day, was selected. In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month.

### Little known African American Women's History facts from WWII: Lt Col Charity Adams and the all Black 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion



(L) Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion take part in a parade ceremony in honor of Joan d' Arc at the marketplace where she was burned at the stake. 1945 The all-black 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion arrived in England and performed its duties with distinction. Accustomed to discrimination at home, the women were accepted socially by British and French people.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (or "Six Triple Eight") was the only unit of African-Americans in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) to serve overseas.



The battalion was commanded by Columbia, South Carolina native Charity Edna Adams Earley (L). In August of 1942, Charity Edna Adams became the first African-American to be commissioned an

officer in the WAAC. Alphabetically, she should have been the first woman of either race sworn in, but for this graduation, the Army broke with tradition.


Not only was she the first black woman commissioned as an officer in the Women's Army Corps, Charity Adams also attained the highest rank possible in the Corps below the directorship -- Only one full colonel was permitted in the WAC, and that rank was held only by the Director.

Most Americans take the daily delivery of mail for granted. For soldiers, especially those serving overseas in wartime, mail is a vital link to home and loved ones. Troop morale often waxes and wanes based on the reliable delivery of mail. Insuring that the mail gets through is one measure by which soldiers also gauge the concern and consideration accorded their welfare by their leaders.

By 1945, as Army units moved quickly across Western Europe into Germany, a gigantic snag had developed with regard to the delivery of mail to servicemen. A shortage of man-

power had allowed mail to accumulate in British warehouses for months and delayed its delivery to the frontlines. Further delays in the delivery of mail had the potential of dampening soldier morale as American armies thrust into the German homeland, where they expected to meet stiff resistance. The Six Triple Eight did an extraordinary job

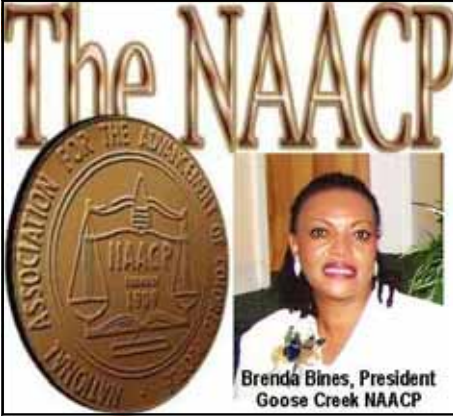
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National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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Brenda Bines, President  
Goose Creek NAACP

## BRANCH MEETINGS

Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday  
of the month at Abraham Masonic Building  
206 Liberty Hall Rd; Goose Creek, SC.

<u>Upcoming Meetings</u>	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting
Monday Mar 2, 2009	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday Apr 6, 2009	

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### Officers

President .....Brenda Bines  
 1st VP .....David Cakley  
 2nd VP.....Orville Hayes  
 Secretary.....Jenae Haynes  
 Treasurer.....Tamekia Morant

### Executive Committee Members

The Rev. Ted Adams	Ranese Harrell
Jackie Adams	David Johnson
Eddie Anderson	Betty Jones
Barbara Blackwell	Thomas Lanier
Herbert Bodison	Marlene Lemon
Lori Brooks	John Matthews
LaMaurice Burgin	Robert Newton
Veronica Dukes	Paul W. Staggers, Jr.
Andrea Glover	Clarence Turner
Beverly Hargrow	Eyamba Williams

## Congratulations, On February 12th The NAACP Turned 100

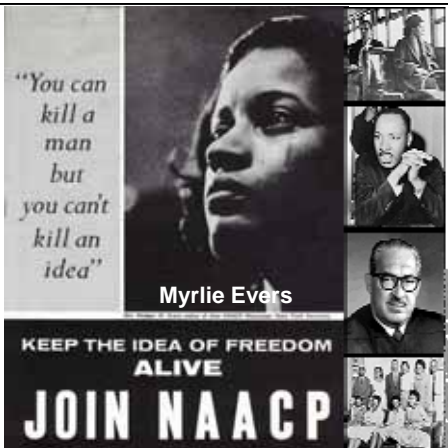
### Charleston Branch Hosts a News Conference and Cake Cutting to Kick Off NAACP Centennial Celebrations in the Lowcountry



Mary Cheatham (L), Mary  
Jenkins (C), Dot Scott (R)

Rev Joseph Darby (L), Mary Ward  
(C), Samuella Holmes (R)

On February 12, 2009 Dot Scott, President of the Charleston Branch NAACP, brought the Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, and North Charleston NAACP Branches together to hold a joint news conference and cake cutting ceremony to kick off celebration of the NAACP's Centennial in the Lowcountry.



KEEP THE IDEA OF FREEDOM  
ALIVE  
**JOIN NAACP**



### South Carolina Lowcountry Mayors Declare the NAACP's 100th Anniversary NAACP Day in Lowcountry Cities

Goose Creek NAACP Branch President, Brenda Bines (R) looks on as in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Goose Creek Mayor Michael Heitzler (L) signed a proclamation declaring February 12, 2009 to be "NAACP Day" in Goose Creek.

Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston also signed a declaration proclaiming February 12th NAACP Centennial Day in the City of Charleston. Mayor Keith Summey of North Charleston signed a declaration proclaiming February 12th NAACP Day in the City of North Charleston.



# NAACP 100TH Anniversary celebrated in the Lowcountry

By David Cakley, 1st Vice President  
Goose Creek Branch NAACP



## Lowcountry NAACP Centennial Celebration Program

On Sunday, February 15th, the Centennial Celebration of the NAACP was held in this area at Charity Missionary Baptist Church, North Charleston, S.C. with four local NAACP branches participating: Charleston, North Charleston, Moncks Corner and Goose Creek. The celebration was hosted by Charity Missionary Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivers, III is the pastor. The celebration presented an opportunity for local branches and the community to reflect on the past and look ahead toward a brighter future.

This was both an historical and memorial event. It was indeed an honor to be alive to witness this day, to celebrate and to see people come together celebrating this centennial celebration. In a year that brought Barack Obama to the presidency, it marked a new beginning for all Americans. A Black president is in the White House and this has transcended across our Nation giving young and old a feeling of hope, and a reinforced commitment to the future of the NAACP.

The Pastor of Charity, the Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III presided during this glorious event and the program included singing by area choirs, praise dancers and an oration by Goose Creek's own Silas Adams.



Silas Adams  
Goose Creek Branch

Silas displayed his extraordinary oratory skills before an appreciative audience. His rendition of Martin Luther King's I Have a Dream Speech has become a trade mark and inspiration for the Goose Creek Branch and now the Lowcountry. Silas details of the struggles endured by African Americans, and when he so eloquently repeated Dr. King's words . . . *"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice."* . . . he drew applause and a standing ovation from the audience."

We now better understand that the mission of this great organization has always been clear, it is for the advancement of any disenfranchised group, and I think Americans are ready to accept and embrace that vision. We have begun to see ourselves in a universal light. We must continue advocating for positive representations of ourselves. The problems in the black community may be "less overt" than they once were, but we must continue to hold on to our heritage. We still have struggles specific to all of us, we must know what we want, know where we started from, know where we are going and through all of this not forget who we are. I hope that we get rid of the negative connotations and negative stereotypes that we have carried and placed upon ourselves.



The Rev. Joseph Darby

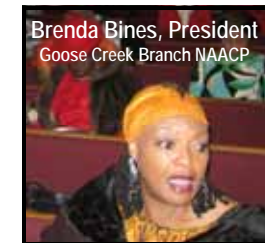
As the Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivers expressed "we've climbed the ladder so far, but there's still a long way to go."

Dr. Lonnie Randolph the South Carolina State Conference President presented



The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivers, III, (L) Dr. Lonnie Randolph (C) Dot Scott (R)

Pastor Rivers with a plaque for his many years of dedicated service to the NAACP on the local, state, regional and national levels of the organization.



Brenda Bines, President  
Goose Creek Branch NAACP

Brenda Bines, President of the Goose Creek Branch, Dot Scott, President of the Charleston Branch,

Mary Ward, President of the North Charleston Branch, and Ed Vice, 1st VP of the Moncks Corner joined together and also presented the Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III a plaque in appreciation for his service to the NAACP And support of Lowcountry branches. Note: Mr. Vice stood in for Moncks Corner Branch President Booker Manigault who was unable to attend because he was recovering from surgery.

Mr. Sam Hart, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of North Charleston presented a proclamation from Mayor Keith Summey to the North Charleston Branch honoring the NAACP's Centennial Celebration.

See Lowcountry Celebrationj on page 8



## All Black 6888th from page 1

of redirecting mail in the European Theater of Operations. Troops were reassigned quickly, battle casualties were relocated often, and the sheer number of U.S. personnel in the ETO was staggering -- with more than 7,500 of them, for instance, having the name of Robert Smith. But the Six Triple Eight broke all records for redirecting mail. They knew the importance of their job, in maintaining morale.

To alleviate the backup of undelivered mail, Army leaders turned to the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion. With a strength of 855 African-American women – 824 enlisted women and 31 officers – the 6888th was composed of African-American women from a variety of military occupations who previously had been assigned to Army and Army Air Forces installations throughout the United States. While most of the African-American WACs of the 6888th were postal clerks, others held service and support positions and operated the 6888th's own mess halls, motor pools, and supply rooms, making the 6888th almost entirely self-sufficient.

When the WACs of the 6888th reached Birmingham, England, in January 1945, floor-to-ceiling stacks of undelivered mail and packages and the trainloads of mail that continued to arrive overwhelmed them. The magnitude of the task and limited workspace necessitated working around the clock in eight-hour shifts. Poor working conditions added to the stress of their monumental task. Eyestrain was common because of the poor lighting from windows painted black for war-related blackouts. The inadequate heat forced women to work in their ski pants and field jackets. Ventilation was especially poor. But by May 1945 the 6888th had reduced the backlog of troop mail in England.

Transferred to Rouen, France, in May 1945, the 6888th faced a similar heavy task. Most of the mail in France had been held up for months; some items for as long two or three years. Directed to eliminate the backlog in France in six months, members of the battalion, aware of the importance of mail for front-line soldiers, were determined to get the job done in three months. Despite living and working in less than ideal conditions at Rouen, members of the 6888th had developed strong group ties and a strong sense of sisterhood

that enabled the units to work efficiently. Selfless individual dedication, teamwork, and methodical attention to detail by members of the 6888th reduced the backlog of mail France.

For the vast majority of American soldiers in Europe in 1945 the African-American women of the 6888th were anonymous, as were the names on the millions of pieces of mail that members of the 6888th processed. The 6888th took great satisfaction in its accomplishments, recognizing that its work improved the quality of life of millions of GIs.

For each member of the 6888th, enlistment in the Army also fulfilled some individual need as well. For women, and for African-American women in particular, World War II offered unprecedented opportunities to serve their country. The deployment of racial minorities and women in the Army during World War II represented milestones that led in subsequent years to racial and gender integration in the Army and all the armed services.

The Six Triple 8 faced the typical disparagements of those days.



Charity Adams-Earley (1998)

The Red Cross wanted to establish a special hotel for black WACs in London. Charity Adams refused this "generosity." She reports other difficulties: in England, the black women had a curfew of 11:00 p.m. (instead of the 12:30 a.m. curfew for white soldiers), because the residents of the area were told that blacks had tails that appeared at midnight, and these tails were especially apparent below the skirts of women. Then, too, there were resentments from white males in the service, and even from black males, as Adams describes it: "Negro males had been systematically degraded and mistreated in the civilian world, and the presence of successfully performing Negro women on the scene increased their resentment."

Charity Adams was up to the challenge. She grew up in a family where reading was as natural as breathing. The house was always filled with books of all kinds. Her father was a scholar who was fluent in Greek and Hebrew.

Adams graduated as valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School high school, selected Wilberforce University in Ohio, and majored in math and physics. After graduation, Adams returned to Columbia and taught for four years while attending graduate school at Ohio State University.

"As the 6888th maintained its efficiency, we were inspected, visited, greeted, checked out, congratulated, called upon, supervised, and reviewed by every officer of any rank in the United Kingdom who could come up with an excuse." This led to a confrontation that Charity Adams describes in detail. One general was apparently bothered at seeing some of the unit's women in their bathrobes (even though it was explained to him that the unit worked in three shifts, so some of the unit were on sleeping time). "I'll tell you what I am going to do, Major Adams," said the general. "I'm going to send a white first lieutenant down here to show you how to run this unit." Charity's response: "Over my dead body, Sir." Before the day was out, word came that the general was drawing up court-martial charges against her. In turn, she considered court-martial charges against him (for stressing racial disharmony among the troops, an action specifically cautioned against. Within a few days, the general had dropped his charges, and Charity Adams too dropped her plans. Some months later, when they came across each other again, he apologized to her. She had outsmarted him, he said, and he was proud to know her. She had also been "quite an education" for him, "especially about Negroes."

Charity Adams was indeed an impressive woman. She died at the age of 83, on January 13, 2002 in Dayton, Ohio.

When the 6888th returned to America, the Six Triple 8 was disbanded. The women dispersed. Some stayed in the service. Some retired and went home. The war was over, the country was still segregated, and there was very little said or written about their great adventure. The women who are still alive, are well into their 80's, now.

You can learn more about Charity Adams and the Six Triple 8 in her book, *One Woman's Army - A Black Officer Remembers the WAC* by Charity Adams Earley. □



# March Is Red Cross Month



*Together, we can save a life*

The American Red Cross and the NAACP have a long-standing relationship that spans 25 years and was reinforced during the response to Hurricane Katrina. Post-Katrina initiatives included the hiring of a National Liaison between the organizations, the training of more than 1,000 NAACP members by Red Cross staff and a leadership charge to Red Cross chapters encouraging them to work with their local NAACP branches. These measures created relationships that resulted in NAACP members actively engaging in disaster response efforts including sheltering and feeding.



## Closing the Gap in Health Care

*"Sista Big Bones" is a major health issue . . .*

### Cultural Aspects of Obesity

It is now clear to practically everyone that obesity is a major health issue that is on the rise in the world and in Charleston, South Carolina and it is epidemic among African Americans. There are more obese women than there are overweight women in the United States and large portions of them are black women. In the world, there are 25 million overweight children under the age five.

Last week I gave a give a talk to a group of non-minority physicians entitled: Obstacles to Care – Racial, Ethnic and Gender Disparities in Obesity at Obesity Seminar. The objective of the talk was to discuss the barriers that impede weight loss for some African American patients. I learned a lot in preparing for this lecture including that black women do not like to be referred to as obese. Overweight - ok, but not obese.

I have always wondered why so many young females on black college campuses are significantly overweight but do not seem to be concerned about the health consequences of being obese. As we know, obesity causes an increased rate of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, cancer, osteoarthritis, and the list goes on and on. Isn't anyone talking to these young women? Don't they read how

### Eliminating Health Disparities: An NAACP Strategic Priority

Elimination of disparities in accessibility to quality health care services by African-Americans and other minority groups is central to the work of the Goose Creek Branch. The Health Committee of the Goose Creek Branch:

- Advocates for universal health insurance and access to appropriate health care for all;
- Campaigns for equal access to health education, care and treatment;
- Sponsors events, such as health forums, HIV/AIDS Testing, and events that highlight issues of importance to people of color;
- Promotes equal representation of African-Americans and other minorities within the health professions;
- Advances increased research funding on African-American health issues; and supports health initiatives of the national NAACP.



**Thaddeus John Bell M.D.**  
Family Medicine

obese patients suffer lives full of health problems that end life early?

Study after study has revealed that many young African American women are less likely to eat fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods. They are more likely to consume high amounts of fats and food with salt. Focus group studies suggest that many young African American women think that obesity is a part of the black culture and that being "thick" is normal. Even more surprising is that many of them feel that attempts to make them lose weight are the majority culture's way of trying to make them look more like white women. Many also think that black men prefer women with meat on their bones.

From my point of view, this is a sad state of affairs for young black women. Too many young black women are already being diagnosed with diabetes at an all too early age and many will die of the complications of obesity. We must teach our young black women and men that obesity is not the cornerstone of the African American culture. "Sista Big Bones" is a major health issue and we must deal with it before we lose an entire generation.

*I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, closing the gap in health disparities for African Americans and the underserved.*

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Bell Update Volume 4, Chapter 7



*With the election of Barack Obama as president of the United States do we still need Black History Month?*

## Black History Month still relevant for U.S.

by Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker, Ph.D.



Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker, Ph.D.

With the election of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States, those who already viewed Black History Month as outdated and worthy of extinction have seized

this period of racial optimism to call for the elimination of the 28-day commemoration.

Leading columnists from major newspapers in recent weeks have been pressing for the end of Black History Month, which is the legacy of historian Carter G. Woodson, who created Negro History Week in 1926.

Cynthia Tucker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, writes that "the commemoration is a damaging form of apartheid" and that "the nation of Tiger Woods, Oprah and Barack Obama no longer needs a Black History Month."

Tony Norman of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette argues, "Now that Barack Obama and his family have moved into the White House, it's time to rethink the holiday Carter G. Woodson came up with nearly a century ago. Times have changed. Even the Republicans have a Black guy running the party. Maybe February can go back to being for all of us."

In 2005, actor Morgan Freeman denounced Black History Month during a 60 Minutes interview as "ridiculous," asking, "You're going to relegate my history to a month?"

While I admire Freeman's passion and agree with the spirit of his convictions, I disagree with his conclusions. Although "African-American history is American history" and, as such, should be integrated into the fabric of our education and daily consciousness, it also warrants particular attention.

America's promise, past, present, and future, will always be tied to, and measured by, the socioeconomic status of African-Americans.

No matter how much we grow, and no matter how unified we become, we will always be a post-slave and Jim Crow society.

Black History Month, therefore, will never be obsolete. It will always be in our best interest to pause and explore the meaning of freedom through the lived experiences of a people who forced America to be true to its creed and reaffirmed the American dream. Those who would eliminate Black History Month often miss the point.

Should we educate ourselves about Black history throughout the year? Of course we should. Should we also take time out to acknowledge the fact that, without African-Americans, our understanding of "freedom and justice for all" would not exist? Yes.

If treated seriously and executed effectively, Black History Month could stimulate more concern for inclusive and probing educational curricula, intercultural communication and democracy itself.

Knowledge of African-American history is essential to comprehending our nation's character, and we should do everything that we can to ensure that all Americans know precisely who we are and how we came to be.

Moreover, Black History Month not only reminds of how far we've come, given all the challenges that remain, it also reminds us of how far we still must go. □

Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker, Ph.D. is an award winning scholar, teacher, activist and emerging voice among public intellectuals in the United States. Professor Whitaker is Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, where he is also an Affiliate of the African and African American Studies Program and the School of Justice and Social Inquiry. Dr. Whitaker is a highly sought after writer, speaker, and consultant, whose historical training and expertise in interpersonal and intercultural communication, social movements, politics, and popular culture places him at the cutting edge of our constantly changing global society.

He is also a member of the NAACP.

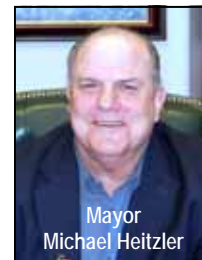
## What others said . . .



As we mark National African American History Month, we should take note of this special moment in our Nation's history and the actors who worked so diligently to deliver us to this place. One such organization is

the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- the NAACP -- which this year will witness 100 years of service to the Nation on February 12. Because of their work, including the contributions of those luminaries on the front lines and great advocates behind the scenes, we as a Nation were able to take the dramatic steps we have in recent history.

*President Barack Obama, February 2, 2009*



Mayor  
Michael Heitzler

Every month is designated as an ethnic group month, although I only know February as Black History Month. Hispanic Americans, Native Americans etc. all have a month but I

don't recall which month for what group. Nevertheless, I don't think that February should be eliminated as Black History Month but it would be a noble gesture on the part of African Americans to campaign for the other months so that Americans learn which months are which and so Americans would celebrate diversity throughout the year.

The NAACP advocates for "colored people." That's an archaic term but "colored" covers the full palette of who we know as hyphenated Americans. This could be an opportune time for African Americans to truly advocate for the complete palette. The NAACP could highlight outstanding Asia Americans during a specific month. What a powerful message to send if the NAACP began to highlight Hispanic Americans or Native Americans. The message would be

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profound. The message would say that African American stand proud and formidable and have climbed to the mountain top and are now reaching back to give a hand up for others such as Vietnamese immigrants, Muslim Americans and most recently, the immigrant families from Iraq. How about a hand up for illegal immigrants, who need legal help? John...I'm just thinking out loud, but I'm grateful that I can think out loud with you and I am grateful that you asked for my opinion. I am not always pleased with the NAACP but I am proud of our Goose Creek branch. Truly, together we can!

*Michael Heitzler, Mayor  
City of Goose Creek*



I think until the history book are corrected .....Continue to celebrate Black History Month.

There are those who say that we are now in a post racial period. Let the New York Post remind us, "WE ARE NOT THERE YET!!

*Dot Scott, President  
Charleston Branch NAACP*



In regard to the question of the necessity of Black History month being necessary in the wake of the election of President Obama, I would say that the election of John F. Kennedy in 1960 did not put an end to the various Irish-American organizations such as the Hibernians or the numerous Catholic organizations in the United States. The election of Bill Richardson, who is of Mexican ancestry, to the governorship of New Mexico did not put an end to Cinco De Mayo being celebrated in that states.

As some of your members may know, I am the author of two books on South Carolina's Black History. Although the South Carolina Department of Education mandated the teaching of Black history in Social studies classes on the 5th and 8th grade levels in 1984, few children and few adults know that South Carolina had two black lieutenant governors during Reconstruction (Alonzo Ransier and Richard

Gleaves) or that a black man (Robert Smalls) was the mover and shaker behind the state's establishment of a public school system during Reconstruction or the stories behind the names of the Septima Clark expressway or the Esau Jenkins bridge or even the Daniel Jenkins orphanage. I teach many young people in the inner cities of Charleston and surrounding rural areas who are shocked to meet a black man with no prison record or who wrote a book.

In short, the answer is yes, it is still needed.

*Damon L. Fordham, MA  
Adjunct Professor of African American Studies  
Springfield College, Charleston, SC*



I say that's as ridiculous as the idea that the election of a black President means that we now live in a "post-racial" America. I don't downplay the achievement, but a closer look at the Obama election

shows why we still need Black History Month and why we still need conversations and advocacy when it comes to race.

Members of my church noted that the day after the election, their white co-workers were notably silent, and the Charleston Branch NAACP got reports of schools where discussion of the election was prohibited. That's a part of the same trend that leads some very white schools not to celebrate Black History Month, but to instead celebrate "understanding month" or "diversity month," or "world culture month." When I lived in Columbia, we dealt with that trend.

Race is still the "800 pound gorilla" that many Americans still try to ignore - Attorney General Eric Holder was on target when he said that Americans are "cowards" when it comes to discussing race.

*The Reverend Joseph Darby, Pastor  
Morris Brown A.M.E. Church  
1st VP, Charleston Branch NAACP*

Black History Month is still very necessary. It should not be only one month of course



but the idea of having a special time of the year to reflect on our history is essential to our race. The idea that permeates in our society today that Black History month is obsolete, I believe is an insult to our ancestors whose stories

are still not adequately being shared in our society. We have to remember that our history just recently have been included in history books used in our schools. Our children must study and focus on the importance of the contributions of African Americans, because this gives them a sense of pride in themselves and their race. To everyone that has a story of African American heritage it should be shared with our youth; they need to understand and connect to their heritage the entire year.

*Barbara Bodison, M.A.  
Teacher  
BCEA, Vice President  
Charter Member Goose Creek Branch NAACP*



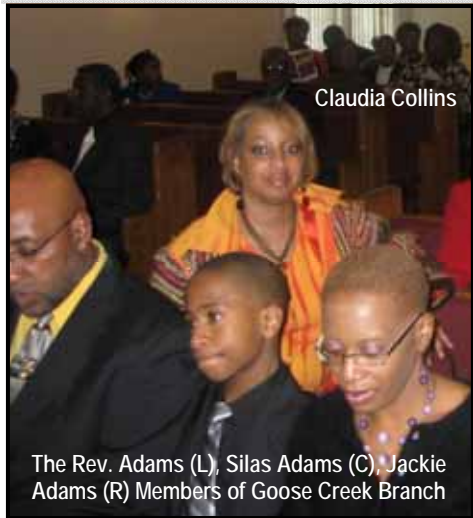
Black History should be celebrated all year long and integrated into history on a daily basis. The election of Barack Obama as the first African American president is historical and will get him a place in American history books.

However the awesome achievements of President Barack Obama do not end the need for Black History Month. For decades America kept African Americans away from the center of attention, influence, or power and we are often ignored in history books. So I think it's important to pay special attention to the achievements of Americans of African descent and continue to celebrate Black History Month. We must continue to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

*John Matthews, Life Member  
Goose Creek Branch NAACP*



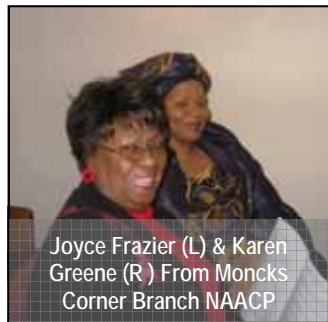
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Claudia Collins

The Rev. Adams (L), Silas Adams (C), Jackie Adams (R) Members of Goose Creek Branch

The highlight of the evening came when the Rev. Joseph A. Darby, Pastor, Morris Brown AME Church and First Vice President of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP, "rocked" the house for the LORD with his main message that we must continue to march until civil rights and equal rights flow like a mighty river unto all of God's children. Our spirits were truly uplifted by this man of God with the Centennial Celebration sermon he delivered. His message was one of motivation, enlightenment, and a call to service. Rev. Darby expressed the need for the NAACP to continue working toward being proactive, not reactionary. He stated that the NAACP is not just a "Black organization," and the goals of the group in the future will reflect that.



Joyce Frazier (L) & Karen Greene (R) From Moncks Corner Branch NAACP

If you didn't hear The Rev. Darby and young Silas Adams you can get a recording from Charity Baptist Church. We've heard

NAACP messages before but this one was awesome and really needs to be heard again.

*Special thanks to President Brenda Bines who contributed to this story.*

## Madie Robinson of Florence, SC was reelected to NAACP National Board of Directors



On February 21, 2009 at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in

New York City Madie Robinson, President of Florence NAACP Branch was re-elected and sworn in for a second term on the NAACP National Board of Directors.

"This was my first time running for an at-large seat," she said, "and I'm kind of proud of being elected. Only two of the 64 NAACP national board of directors are from South Carolina branches." The other board member is former S.C. State Conference president James Gallman of the Aiken NAACP branch.

She has been active in the NAACP for over thirty years. Her early activities were with local branch and the regional office. She says, "working on special projects with the late Earl T. Shinoster, NAACP Southeast Regional Director and the late Jondelle H. Johnson, Special Projects Director, gave me understanding of how to increase memberships and get individuals involved with the organization."

She served 20 years as Secretary of the NAACP South Carolina State Conference and was Chairperson of the South Carolina NAACP membership committee. As membership chairperson she was able to almost double NAACP membership in South Carolina and initiated the first ever statewide Radiothon that is now a national program.

She has also served for many years on the Legal Redress, Finance, Woman of the Year, and the Freedom Fund Dinner Committee, among others.

Ms. Robinson has a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina and since January 1998 she has been Executive Director/CEO, Pee Dee Healthy Start Inc. in Florence, S.C.

In addition to her NAACP affiliation, she

was the First African American Woman to serve as Chairman of the Commission on Worship, S.C. Annual Conference, United Methodist Church. Madie is a Life long member of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Timmonsville, SC and a Certified Lay Speaker. Madie is a Golden Life Member of the Florence Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Madie says, "It is a tremendous honor to serve the National Association for the Advancement Colored People members on the National Board of Directors. I'm honored and humbled that I have earned the trust and support of NAACP members from around the country for another term."

**As President of the Florence Branch NAACP, Madie has:**

- Significantly increased branch membership
- Fought for fair reapportionment in the state legislature and local school board resulting in three minority districts and two others with significant minority influence.
- Continued to fight for fair representation and address emerging issues such as gangs and gang violence.

**At the NAACP national Madie's contributions include:**

- Long time membership on the Board of Directors Resolution Committee;
- Member, the Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees
- Member, National Health Committee
- Chairperson, Maternal and Child Health Sub-Committee
- Member, Legal Committee
- Member, Religious Affairs Committee

Madie says, " my votes and positions on the board always reflect the best interest of the NAACP and its members."

Madie's deep appreciation and concern for the hard work done by thousands of volunteers on a daily basis cause her to be one of the most accessible and popular members of the 64 member NAACP National Board of Directors.

See National Board Election Results Page 10





**Bold, Boisterous Backlash, Quietly**

**By Michael Rodgers, Ph.D.**

Email: michael@michaelrogers.org



I'm flabbergasted by our state legislators. They fly the Confederate flag from the most prominent place on the grounds of the State House as if it's our governing flag and then they expect everybody to treat this action as if it's no big deal. And now this!

Our state legislators are passing 3509, "a concurrent resolution to affirm the rights of all states including South Carolina based on the provisions of the ninth and tenth amendments to the United States Constitution."

OK, so, why? I mean, sure, everybody likes the 9th and 10th amendments. What's the justification, though, to have a concurrent resolution now? Is it part of a series? Did our state legislators have concurrent resolutions about the 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th, etc., and are just now on the 9th and 10th? Do they plan on going through the whole list?

No? Then why did they start at the 9th and stop at the 10th? Why not start at the 8th? Why not continue to the 11th? Why not choose the entire Bill of Rights? Why not choose the 15th and 19th? And why now, out of the blue, when our state and our nation are facing an enormous fiscal crisis and when our soldiers are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan?

What's so important about right now and about the 9th and 10th amendments that we need to drop everything and have a concurrent resolution about how South Carolina (on behalf of every other state that is too busy) affirms "the rights of all states ... based on the provisions of the ninth and tenth amendments to the United States Constitution."

Did some other state ask us to have a resolution on their behalf? "Hey, South Carolina, it's Montana here. Would you do us a solid and have a concurrent resolution affirming the 9th and 10th amendments? ... No, don't bother with the 2nd right now, we've got that scheduled for next month, and we've got other states working on concurrent resolutions affirming the other amendments. Okay, thanks, bye."

Hmm, well, what's the deal? Let's read the first

Whereas of the concurrent resolution:

"Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly declares that the people of this State have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent State, and shall exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right pertaining thereto, which is not expressly delegated by them to the United States of America in the congress assembled;"

Whoa! What? This is powerful stuff about freedom, liberty and the exercise thereof! This is like "The Declaration of Independence" or "The Declaration of the Rights of Man." I didn't know that they were engaging in such an undertaking. How did our state legislators reach these conclusions and what are the implications for our state?

Let's continue and skip ahead to the fourth and final Whereas:

"Whereas, the several states of the United States of America, through the Constitution and the amendments thereto, constituted a general government for special purposes and delegated to that government certain definite powers, reserving each state to itself, the residuary right to their own self government."

Wow! This is an extremely condescending sentence that says that, our nation, the United States of America, (1) is merely a general government constituted by the states for special purposes and (2) has only certain definite powers that were delegated to that general government by the states.

What are the "special purposes" for which the "general government" was constituted? The legislators didn't say. I suggest the answer is in the preamble of the Constitution:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Those are the reasons that "We the People" constituted our United States Government. And "We the People" did it, and in so doing, we declared,

"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Our state legislators are making profound statements about individual freedom, the history of the Constitution, and the power of the states. These statements require detailed explanations of how our legislators arrived at them and of what their implications are for South Carolinians. I find these Whereas sentences to be extremely controversial, especially for a concurrent resolution.

Let's finish this post by describing the actual "Be it resolved" sentence:

"That the General Assembly of South Carolina, based on the above principles and provisions, hereby declares by this resolution, that any act by the Congress of the United States, Executive Order of the President of the United States, or Judicial Order by the federal courts which assumes a power not delegated to the government of the United States of America by the Constitution and which serves to diminish the liberty of any of the several states or their citizens shall abridge the Constitution."

Oh, my! Is our state government seceding via a concurrent resolution? Is our state government declaring that states have the power to nullify the actions of our federal government? Is our General Assembly planning to apply a strict constructionist constitutional interpretation on all federal actions and nullify any action it finds wanting? And are they letting everybody know about their plans by this concurrent resolution?

For how long have they been planning this concurrent resolution? Why are they passing it now? Aahhh. They're having a backlash against President Barack Obama. They think he's a socialist who's going to tell them what to do, and they want everybody to know that they do not support anything that President Barack Obama wants to do.

Sure, they'll take the stimulus money. Our state legislators will take money from anybody

See Michael Rodgers on page 11



### 2009 National Board of Directors Election Results

At the one hundredth annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York City:



The Rev. Dr. William Barber, III was sworn in as Region V National Board Member. He was elected to the board by Region V delegates at the 99th Annual Convention in Cincinnati last

year.

The Rev. Dr. Barber is president of North Carolina State Conference NAACP. He is pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Goldsboro, NC.

He served as the Executive Director for NC Human Relations Commission. The Rev. Barber has served as Political Action Chair of the NC NAACP State Conference was president of Washington County Youth Council NAACP when it won the state chapter of the year award. The Rev. Barber said, "I'm excited about joining the national board and working on your behalf. Please pray for me as I will for you."

The following board members were re-elected and sworn in as At-Large Board of Directors Members: Ophelia Averitt, Judge Fred L. Banks, Jr., Rev. Amos Brown, Bishop William Graves, and South Carolina's Madie Robinson.



Ophelia Averitt, President Akron Branch NAACP. As president, she established college scholarships and has overseen the establishment of chapters on six college campuses. Ms. Averitt is well

known for her extensive and flamboyant collection of hats.



Judge Fred L. Banks, Jr. From 1991 to 2001 he was a Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. He was president of the Jackson Branch of the NAACP from 1971 through 1982.



The Reverend Dr. Amos Brown, President of the San Francisco chapter of the NAACP. Dr. Brown has been Pastor of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church since 1976.



Bishop William H. Graves, the 42nd Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME), is Senior Bishop and CEO of the Christian Methodist Episcopal

Church.



Madie Robinson is the president of the Florence chapter of the NAACP. She's been a member of the chapter since 1975. "This was my first time running for an at-large seat," she said, "and I'm kind of proud of being elected. See Page 8 for more on Madie.

Two first time national board members were also elected and sworn in. They were Edward DuBose and Yvonne White.



Edward O. DuBose, President Georgia State Conference NAACP became the first Georgian to sit on the board since former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson.

Two areas that I plan to prioritize in my term as National Board Member are Rebuilding a strong Youth Presence in the organization by working to empower, reactivate and increase membership for Youth units across the Country. The Youth are the future yet the roster reflect a diminishing presence of Young people on the roles of the NAACP across the Country. The second is working to create greater resources for Branches at the grass roots level in order that they may be able to carry out the mission they have been called on to do by National and the By-laws. Many times they are called on complete multiple task but given very little resources to accomplish those task.



Yvonne White, Michigan State Conference NAACP President. Ms. White has worked in various capacities for the NAACP at the state, local and national

levels for over twenty-five years. On September 9, 2001, she became the first woman elected President of the Michigan State Conference NAACP. For the past twenty-one years she has been employed by the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources in Detroit, Michigan.

These board members were elected to a two year term.

Although both received opposition, Julian Bond and Rosalyn Brock were reelected by the board as Chairman and Vice Chair respectively. □

### Racial Jokes towards President Obama are Getting Out of Hand

By

Douglas A. Wilson

SC Youth & College Division Advisor



Three months ago, this country of ours witnessed the most historical event since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation. Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. However, some are not happy about this at all. Since his election and inauguration, there have been a lot of racial slurs and jokes. White Supremacists Groups posted comments on their websites and blogs like "Kill this N". Nooses have been hung in schools in some states. I have spoken to many young people in high school and they have told me stories of white students telling them that Obama will be shot and that he is a N.

Recently, the NY Post printed a cartoon that shows two cops killing a monkey. Many civil rights groups slammed the paper stating that this was directed towards the President. A CA Mayor recently stepped down after he sent an e-mail that shows watermelons on the lawn of the White House. In the e-mail, the former mayor cites "No Easter Egg Hunt This Year." Fox News Commentator Sean Hannity recently created a poll on his web site asking questions related to starting a revolution and union succession. Just recently some members of a police department in New York were suspended after sending an e-mail out stating that "KFC will be set up in the front of the White House"

These actions have greatly concerned me as an American and a black man. I believe that we as a people must take action to stop this type of hate. We must find a way to unite and attack racism directly. CNN has done a fantastic job with Black in America 1 and 2. It really displayed how Blacks see ourselves and the struggles we face. I am a supporter of a discussion and dialogue that should be called "The New America, An Open Discussion about Race" Whites, blacks everyone should be brought to the table and have an open dialogue about racial unity. If we do not take some type of action, everything that our forefathers fought for will vanish along with the American Spirit. □



### Statement of NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous on public apology from News Corporation Executive K. Rupert Murdoch



Feb. 18, 2009 - Page 11

#### WANT \$22B MORE



Feb. 18, 2009 - Page 12



February 21, 2009 - We welcome Rupert Murdoch's statement that the New York Post will endeavor to be more sensitive to the communities it serves, but unfortunately his apology fails to answer how the Post will do so.

Mr. Murdoch could resolve this unfortunate situation in 15 minutes by meeting to develop substantive measures to ensure that this type of incendiary incident does not happen again.

Mr. Murdoch's apology comes only after almost a week of tens of thousands of expressions of outrage and disgust from people across the country. The offenders are still on staff and there are no measures being taken to increase diversity in its newsroom. The apology from Mr. Murdoch is sadly too little, too late and we call on Mr. Murdoch to take the steps needed to assure that the New York Post can practice more responsible journalism and truly be sensitive to its community, in the future.

The New York Post and Fox News have a history of racially insensitive reporting. With the support of the editor in chief, the cartoonist Sean Delonas has published numerous vile cartoons tinged with racism. Fox News was

widely criticized during the elections for calling Michelle Obama "Obama's baby mama" and terming the affectionate and common fist bump between then-candidate Obama and his wife, a "terrorist fist jab" at a time when death threats against the candidate were at an all time high for any presidential candidate.

The New York Post stands alone from most daily newspapers in refusing to report its diversity numbers to the American Society of Newspaper Editors. One has to wonder how many Hispanic or African American reporters and editors are working at the New York Post? Clearly, with more diversity in its newsrooms, it's likely the paper would have been able to understand the deeply offensive nature of the cartoon. Our guess is that the numbers are abysmally low for a newspaper serving a city with a population as diverse as New York.

It is hard not to interpret the cartoon, which was juxtaposed to a photo of President Obama, as an encouraging sign to those who would assassinate our 44th president because of the color of his skin. The depiction of two police officers shooting down the primate is deeply troubling to communities who struggle daily with suspicious police killings. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has also condemned the cartoon calling it "despicable, insensitive and easily interpreted as racist." Good police officers all around the country should be dismayed by this slur on their character. African Americans have historically been compared to primates as a way to dehumanize the entire group. We were called monkeys while we were being brutally lynched and denied equal civil and human rights. In fact, a 2008 study published by the American Psychological Association found that an association between primates and African Americans *still exists* among many white Americans.

We hope that Mr. Murdoch will make good on his apology and agree to make the needed changes in the newsroom and its policies. □

Michael Rodgers from page 9

and everybody who'll give it to them. But they're not going to say thank you. In fact, they're apparently in a big hurry to say the opposite. Forcefully but quietly, so that everyone who they want to know knows and everyone who they don't want to know has no idea. □

Be sure to visit Michael's Take Down the Flag blog at:

<http://takedowntheflag.wordpress.com/>

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*Membership  
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Goose Creek, SC  
Branch # 56A3

## NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 13 6-8:30 PM Women in the NAACP  
101 Auburn Avenue, NE Atlanta, GA 30303
- Mar 20 Women's History Month Luncheon
- Mar 28 Closing The Gap in Healthcare Fitness Seminar at CSU
- Apr 6 6 PM Executive Committee Meeting
- Apr 6 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- Apr 12 Easter Sunday
- TBA Real Men Cook
- May 4 6 PM Executive Committee Meeting
- May 4 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting
- May 10 MOTHER'S DAY
- May 16 ACT-SO Showcase - Cane Bay H.S.
- May 21 5th Annual NAACP Leadership 500 Summit

## Third Annual Women's History Month Program/Luncheon

### The Women's Resource Project, Inc.

Presents

*Ms. Donna Brazile*

*Political Strategist/Analyst*



*Friday, March 20, 2009*

*Embassy Suites-Convention Center Ballroom*

*5055 International Blvd. North Charleston, SC*

*11:30 am - 1:30 pm*

For additional information contact  
Barbara Gathers, Executive Director

843-722-6217

Donation \$35.00

### FIVE REASONS TO JOIN THE NAACP

1. The fight for freedom is not free! Your membership will help fund initiatives and programs to support our mission of racial equality and equal justice
2. A membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women, and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history
3. Your membership in the NAACP makes you a part of a force of 300,000 people who stand for the freedoms guaranteed in our nation's constitution
4. Your membership in the NAACP makes a direct and positive impact in your community when you join your local Unit
5. Your membership in the NAACP will give you access to our upcoming benefits program that provides discounts on products and services across the country

**THE NAACP  
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Call 830-9779 or download  
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[www.naacpgoosecreek.org](http://www.naacpgoosecreek.org)

## Closing the Gap in Health Care

### Fitness Seminar 2009

Formerly Bell and Schlau Track and Field Seminar



REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[www.closingthegapinhealthcare.org](http://www.closingthegapinhealthcare.org)

**When:** March 28, 2009

7:30 AM Registration

**Where:** Charleston Southern  
University (CSU)  
Football Stadium

**Cost:** FREE  
Lunch Provided

Please tell all those with children age 2-14 to come out and join us for fitness and fun with the CSU athletes. Check out our website for more information.

If you are interested in donating or volunteering for the Fitness Seminar, please email us at  
[info@closingthegapinhealthcare.com](mailto:info@closingthegapinhealthcare.com)



In response to a request by the Goose Creek Branch NAACP Governor Mark Sanford signed a proclamation proclaiming "February 12th as NAACP Day throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the members of the South Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches for their dedicated efforts to end discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all."