



NAACP 2010 Census Campaign

Why is the census an important civil rights issue?

Census data directly affects decisions made on a great number of matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, veterans' services, public health care, rural development, redistricting, the environment, transportation, housing, and the enforcement of civil rights laws.

South Carolina residents are among the most uncooperative in the nation when it comes to the census. Only 58 percent of S.C. households responded to the 2000 census, according to the Census Bureau's Web site. Only Puerto Rico (53 percent) and Alaska (56 percent) were lower. The national average was 67 percent. Berkeley County's response rate was 61 percent. As a result, many individuals were denied an equal voice in their government (since legislative districts are drawn based on decennial census data), and many communities were shortchanged on federal and state funding for schools, crime prevention, health care, and transportation.

An accurate census directly affects our nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental resources for all Americans, and thus must be regarded as one of the most significant civil rights issues facing the country today. In the 2000 census as many as 2 percent of African Americans were missed. If that percentage were to carry over to the 2010 census, as many as 500,000 African Americans could be missed by census workers.

In response, the NAACP is working with other organizations to educate the nation about the importance of a fair and accurate census in 2010. In addition, the NAACP is organizing an aggressive nationwide initiative called **"Yes We Count!"** Together we can elevate the 2010 Census in African American's minds and let the rest of America know that **"Yes We Count!"**

Why is this important?

We must overcome great challenges if we are to provide the next generation with the best healthcare, education, job opportunities, justice system, and places to live. This requires action at every level of the government, from fixing and funding healthcare to defending civil rights laws.

The National Mobilization to Make King Day Count is a way to enlist thousands of African Americans to unite and elevate the importance of a complete census count in 2010. We want

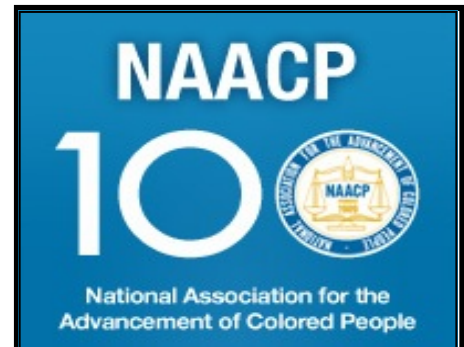
everyone on January 18th, from citizens to voters to media to political officials and all people, to know that a complete count 2010 Census should be at the top of all our priorities.

The Goose Creek NAACP Branch will be participating in the **National Mobilization to Make King Day Count!**

How You Can Help Us

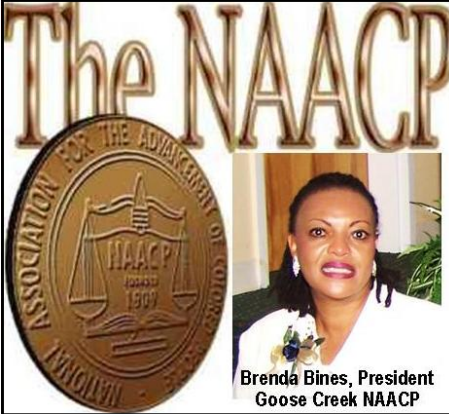
On **January 18th**, local residence will have an incredible opportunity to promote an accurate 2010 Census count. The **NAACP's National Mobilization to Make King Day Count** is asking people to host or attend a house party, phone bank, or door-to-door canvass and to join with thousands of other in talking about the 2010 Census.

See **"Yes We Count!"** on page 3



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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.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday Dec 7, 2009 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday Jan 4, 2010

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| 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 |

NAACP Uses Latest Technology to Fight Racism

Report incidents of police misconduct



-mobile form-
-web form-

NAACP Harnesses Cell Phone Power to Launch New High Tech "Rapid Report System" to Help Citizens Report Police Misconduct -- Part of Sweeping New Civil Rights Initiative on Crime and Safety.

Combining its century-old mission of fighting for equality with the instantaneous reach of modern-day technology, the NAACP has launched a program that lets people use their cell phones to report incidents of police misconduct.

The "rapid response system" was officially launched during the annual convention for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This year, the organization is marking the centennial of its founding in New York City in 1909.

The system allows people who capture photos or video of incidents of alleged police misconduct on their cell phones to send it through a Web browser to the organization or upload it through a computer. A form will then be transmitted to the sender, who can use it to provide more information about an incident.

"Technology has basically put a video camera in the pocket of every child in this country over the age of 12 and most grown-ups as well," said Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP.

He said the information gathered would be used in several ways. Some video could be

used immediately, to present footage for a situation the organization wants to highlight. Another purpose would be to compile a database of incidents that could show a history of discriminatory patterns and practices in particular law enforcement jurisdictions - information the group could take to the Justice Department.

The head of the Justice Department, Attorney General Eric Holder, praised the NAACP's dedication to championing equality but acknowledged the work left to be done.

"We must resist the temptation to conclude that our nation has fulfilled its promise of equality based on one moment or on one election," he said, in reference to Barack Obama being elected president.

"The efforts to harmonize our laws with our best ideals is not yet done," he said.

Monique Morris, the group's vice president of advocacy and research, said the ease of reporting an incident will help give a clearer picture of the prevalence of misconduct.

"What this database will provide is a more accurate account in real time of what's happening in our communities," she



"Yes We Count!" from page 1

The mobilization activities are designed to be non-partisan issue based events. Participants will be encouraged to discuss what is needed to accomplish the community's complete count goals.

With thousands of conversations about the Census occurring all over the country on one day, these activities are a powerful way to communicate to voters, elected officials, the media and all people that the 2010 Census is a national priority.

The house parties are being hosted in all 50 states on January 18th. This nationwide initiative is just the first step in mobilizing all African American's for a complete Census count on April 1st.

The phone banking and canvassing for the National Mobilization to **Make King Day Count is headed by over 213 NAACP units in 471 hard to count census tracts in 11 states.**

Nationwide, we'll help thousands of people who are living in "hard-to-count" tracts understand the importance of being counted.

Insuring our community has an accurate Census count is a vital national imperative. No one knows what our community needs more than the local NAACP. It's time to make your voice heard in your community and lead others in understanding what's really going on in our community today.

To make this initiative successful, **we're calling on anyone** with an interest in elevating theCensus as an issue to contact us at info@naacpgoosecreek.org to:

- host a house party
- volunteer to work a phone bank
- volunteer for door-to-door canvass
- Invite faith, civic, business, and elected leaders to speak about the 2010 Census.
- Invite people to join the NAACP

To get involved please contact us at info@naacpgoosecreek.org with your questions, comments, and any other information you would like to share.■



NAACP 2010 Census Campaign

Fifth Annual Freedom Fund Awards Gala

The Goose Creek branch of the NAACP held its fifth Annual Freedom Fund Gala on Saturday night at Cypress Hall in North Charleston Wannamaker Park.

A yearly tradition, the NAACP Freedom Fund Gala is an annual fundraiser that honors community leaders and students. About 175 were on hand to celebrate the branch's accomplishments and recognize the 100th anniversary of the NAACP.

The theme of the gala was "NAACP 100: Bold Dreams, Big Victories."

"The gala allows us to reflect on the significance of our purpose and acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of volunteers that have served along the way," said Brenda Bines, president of the Goose Creek NAACP branch.

The NAACP honored outstanding members of the community with special awards. Two high school students were also recognized for their excellence in school and the community.

Honorees included:

The Rev. Dr. A.D. Robinson, Jr, Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church received the **Faith Based Community Distinguished Service Award** for his leadership in the areas of feeding the poor, providing tutorial help to needy students, prison ministry, health education, youth programs, counseling, support for Goose Creek Unity Day and support of the NAACP's voter registration drives. Pastor Robinson has also worked with local law enforcement personnel to reduce violence and aid victims of crimes. He is one of the most esteemed ministers in the Lowcountry for his endless work to help others regardless of their race or ethnic heritage.

Mr. Willis Sanders, Chief Human Resources Officer (Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services), Berkeley County Schools received the **Education Community Distinguished**

Service Award. An accomplished self-taught artist (pen and ink drawing and watercolor painting) he uses his art-work as a unique incentive for students, faculty and staff and parents. Over the past 14 years as Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services he shared his art work with district staff members, principals, teachers, school staff, students, community leaders and noted local and state educators and officials.



54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Company I Re-enactors received the **Military Community Distinguished Service Award.** **Rodney Prioleau** accepted the award. The Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. "I", Inc. is an African American reenactment unit of the American Civil War. It is a non profit charitable corporation dedicated to the education of the public and preservation of the memory of the soldiers of the Civil War, particularly those African Americans serving the Union in the State of South Carolina. The actual **54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment** saw extensive federal service in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

Continued on page 10



NAACP honored Chairman Julian Bond with 94th Spingarn Medal



Horace Julian Bond, known as Julian Bond, (born January 14, 1940) is an American social activist and leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, politician, professor and writer.

While a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, during the early 1960s, he helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He was the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Bond was elected to both houses of the Georgia Legislature, where he served a total of twenty years. **He has been chairman of the NAACP since 1998.**

Julian Bond, is the 94th recipient of the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest honor. Bond will receive the award during the NAACP National Convention in New York City July 16 at the annual Spingarn Dinner as the Association continues celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Spingarn Medal, instituted in 1914 by the late Joel E. Spingarn, then NAACP Chairman, is awarded for the highest or noblest achievement by an American of African descent during the preceding year or years.

"Chairman Bond's record of service and leadership is legendary and inspiring," said NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "He has suffered and survived many attacks from extremists, but has always stood strong. His passionate oratory, deep thinking, political savvy and sense of humor make him a unique scholar-statesman of our time and an omnipresent soldier in the struggle for

equality on many fronts."

Having been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960, Bond has faced jail for his convictions and being an active participant in the movements for civil rights and economic justice. In his student days as founder of the Atlanta student sit-ins at Morehouse College, he directed three years of nonviolent anti-segregation protests that won integration of Atlanta's movie theaters, lunch counters and parks. He was arrested for sitting-in at the then-segregated cafeteria at Atlanta City Hall. He was also co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, becoming its Communications Director and later working in voter registration drives in rural Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas.

He was prevented from taking his seat in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965 by members who objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War. He was re-elected to his own vacant seat and un-seated again, and seated only after a third election and a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court. He would become a veteran of both chambers, putting in more than 20 years of service in the Georgia General Assembly.

Co-chair of a challenge delegation from Georgia to the 1968 Democratic Convention, Bond was nominated for Vice-President of the U.S. but had to decline because he was too young. He was the first African American to be nominated for vice president of the United States.

Last April Bond was named a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress and in 2002 received the prestigious National Freedom Award from the U.S. Civil Rights Museum, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions in civil rights and

who have laid the foundation for present and future leaders in the battle for human rights.

With his bold, distinguishable voice he has narrated numerous documentaries, including the Academy Award winning "A Time For Justice" and the prize-winning and critically acclaimed series, "Eyes On The Prize," that chronicles the American civil rights era of the '50s and '60s. He was a commentator on America's Black Forum, the oldest black-owned show in television syndication, while his poetry and articles have appeared in numerous publications.

To make certain that this award is continued on an indefinite basis, Joel E. Spingarn donated in his will \$20,000 to the NAACP with the following statement: "To perpetuate the lifelong interest of my brother, Arthur B. Spingarn, of my wife, Amy E. Spingarn, and of myself in the achievements of the American Negro." If this organization fails to continue, the Spingarn Medal is to be managed by the president of Howard or Fisk University.■

Julian Bond will be the keynote speaker for the Charleston Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Celebration on November 20th
Call 843-805-8030 for tickets or more information

To Join The NAACP Now Contact
Jackie Adams at 824-8241
or
Eddie Anderson at 553-9648
or
Email: info@naacpgoosecreek.com



Behaviors That Can Kill You

It has recently been reported that when it comes to health and safety issues the words that people are more likely to remember are negative words rather than positive ones. For example, "Kill that speed" appears to be more effective than "Slow down." This was a surprise to me, but it prompted me to try stating things more negatively so you will remember them.

Here are several lifestyle behaviors that can and likely will kill you:

1. Not taking your medications as prescribed
2. Smoking any amount of cigarettes
3. Not exercising on a regular basis
4. Eating fast foods on a regular basis
5. Not eating fruits and vegetables as recommended
6. Not practicing safe sex
7. Drinking too much or using drugs
8. Driving too fast
9. Not getting a good education
10. Not being careful about the people you hang out with.

I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, closing the gap in health care for African Americans and the undeserved.

Access our Health-E-Newsletter Archive at

www.closingthegapinhealthcare.org

Become A Friend to Dr. Bell on Facebook

To Find Out More Health Info and General Information

about Closing the Gap in Health Care, Inc.

Email Us At info@closingthegapinhealthcare.com

**AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH®
NOVEMBER 2009**

November is American Diabetes Month®—a time to shine a spotlight on a serious disease that leads to potentially life-

threatening complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation.

Compared to the general population, African Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes:

- 3.7 million, or 14.7 percent of all African Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes.
- African Americans are 1.6 times more likely to have diabetes as non Hispanic whites.
- 25 percent of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.
- 1 in 4 African American women over 55 years of age has diabetes.

Diabetes is associated with an increased risk for a number of serious, sometimes life-threatening complications, and certain populations experience an even greater threat. Good diabetes management can help reduce your risk; however, many people are not even aware that they have diabetes until they develop one of its complications.

- **Blindness** African Americans are almost 50 percent as likely to develop diabetic retinopathy as non-Hispanic whites.
- **Kidney Disease** African Americans are 2.6 to 5.6 times as likely to suffer from kidney disease with more than 4,000 new cases of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) each year.
- **Amputations** African Americans are 2.7 times as likely to suffer from lower-limb amputations. Amputation rates are 1.4 to 2.7 times higher in men than women with diabetes.
- **Heart Disease and Stroke** Heart disease and stroke account for about 65 percent of deaths in people with diabetes. Adults with diabetes have heart disease death rates about 2 to 4 times higher than adults without diabetes. The risk for stroke is 2 to 4 times higher and the risk of death from stroke is 2.8 times higher among people with diabetes.
- **Men** Deaths from heart disease in men with diabetes have decreased by only 13 percent compared to a 36 percent decrease in men without diabetes.
- **Women** In women with diabetes, deaths from heart disease have increased 23 percent over the past 30 years compared to a 27 percent decrease in women without diabetes.

Visit stopdiabetes.com to learn about all the exciting ways to be a part of the Stop Diabetes movement. Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to join this effort as well.

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.



Why You Should Care about Judicial Nominations



The composition of the federal judiciary is a civil rights issue of profound importance to all Americans. The individuals charged with dispensing justice

in our society have a direct impact on civil rights protections for all. As such, the federal judiciary must be perceived by the public as an instrument of justice, and the individuals who are selected for this branch of government must be the embodiment of fairness and impartiality.

Impact: The federal courts of appeal exercise enormous power in deciding cases that determine the rights of all Americans in such areas as civil rights, rights to privacy, rights of workers, and rights of women.

- **The vast majority of cases never make it to the Supreme Court, but are decided by the federal courts of appeal.** The Supreme Court hears only about 80 cases each year, while federal appellate courts decide 28,000 cases, publishing 5,500 to 6,000 opinions each year. Nearly every circuit court decision is final, since the Supreme Court refuses to hear over 99 percent of the cases appealed to the court. In effect, many circuit court rulings are the final word on our rights, making the selection of appellate court judges extremely important to all.
- **The circuit courts also produce most U.S. Supreme Court justices, particularly the District of Columbia Circuit. Seven of the nine current members were circuit court judges when nominated for the Supreme Court. Three of those seven justices (Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Ruth Bader Ginsburg) were elevated to the Supreme Court from the D.C. Circuit.**

During his eight-year tenure in office, President Clinton appointed more women and African Americans to the federal judiciary than Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush combined. His ability to fill key positions, however, was greatly limited by an

often-hostile Senate. As a result, many seats on the federal bench went unfilled. **Moreover:**

- A 2000 report by the Alliance for Justice that even as the average delay by the Senate in acting on all nominations became greater during President Clinton's tenure, women and minority nominees were delayed even longer by the Senate.
- During this period, nominations of minorities failed at a rate more than double that of white candidates.
- **In 2000, there were fewer African American judges on the federal courts of appeals than when Jimmy Carter was president in 1980; no African American judges on the First or Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal; and no Hispanic judges on the D.C., Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeal**

Background: Article II of the Constitution provides the President with the power to nominate federal judges, subject to the "advice and consent" of the Senate. In designing this structure for sharing power between the executive and legislative branches, the founders intended to ensure an independent federal judiciary. Such independence is critical, since federal judges receive lifetime appointments and are called upon to make critical decisions affecting the interpretation and enforcement of the Constitution, federal civil rights laws, and other key protections. Because of this, civil rights advocates have long monitored the integrity of the processes for nominating and confirming judicial and other key federal appointments - insisting that such processes be fair, open, and balanced.

- **Nominees to these courts merit close scrutiny.** Nominees must be able to demonstrate that they will be impartial arbiters of the law so that litigants will reasonably be able to feel that they are receiving a fair hearing.
- **The federal courts should not be packed with extreme ideologues** who have demonstrated that they will use their own ideology - and not legal precedent - to decide cases. Federal judges have the power to severely limit the protection of women's rights, racial and religious minorities' rights, equal employment opportunity,

the workers' rights and consumers' rights.

- **Federal judges must interpret the law fairly**, based on judicial precedent and common sense, rather than on their own personal ideological goals.

Anyone committed to social justice and equal rights must concern themselves with the caliber of those officials nominated or appointed by the President to protect our civil rights and with protecting the independent judiciary.

From time to time the NAACP National office will ask us to call our senators and urge them to confirm judicial nominees who understand the court's role in protecting the rights of all Americans and ensuring equal justice and treatment.■

Tips on Calling Your Members of Congress

When you dial **202-224-3121** you are directed to an operator at the Capitol switchboard. This switchboard can direct you to both senators as well as representatives.

Once the operator answers, ask to be connected to whomever you are trying to reach. They will send you to your senator's or representative's office line, and a legislative assistant will answer the phone.

It is important to let them know **why you are calling** and **what issue you are calling about**. You will sometimes be able to speak directly to your senator or representative, but more often you will speak to a staff person in the member's office. This person keeps track of how many people called and their positions on issues, and provides a summary to the member. Be assured that your call does count, even if you are not able to speak directly to your senator or representative.

You can also find the direct number to any member's office by consulting the **Senate Phone List** http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm or **House Phone List** http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/mcapdir.html



Take Down The Flag Blog by Michael Rodgers, PhD

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

Thank You NAACP

August 3, 2009...3:11 pm



Thank you, NAACP, for 100 years of activism and for carrying on the current fight against our state legislature on the Confederate flag issue.

Thank you Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Dwight James, Andrea Glover, Brenda Bines, John Matthews, and Rev. Joseph A. Darby.

Other groups should join the NAACP in standing up to our state legislature on this and other issues. Our state legislature, as run by *The Red Rooster*, Sen. Glenn McConnell, has too much power and not enough responsibility.

In case you missed the news, the ACC won't hold their baseball tournament in Myrtle Beach.. Not in 2011, not in 2012, and not in 2013. Also, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will not hold their convention here in South Carolina.

I hope that you already know that the reason that we don't have The Palmetto Bowl is because our state legislators would rather fly the Confederate flag than have a NCAA football bowl game.

And I hope you also know that losing out on March Madness games costs our state an estimated \$50 million (and counting). Our state legislators would rather fly the Confederate flag than have a March Madness basketball game.

Some people criticize the NAACP's boycott as being like Swiss cheese — full of holes. It's flouted often, and in big ways. But the boycott is also honored, often, in ways big and small, and every dollar counts.

Why shouldn't our state legislators in South Carolina seek a reasonable way to end the boycott? They changed our license plates to say travel2sc.com. There's a major initiative "We want you to stay in Columbia" that has to contend with, Dan Cook put it:

All of us live here and we all have a pretty multifaceted understanding of where we live, but to outsiders — well, the only three things [they

might know] about South Carolina are that, number one, we have a Confederate Flag flying on our State House grounds; number two, we have a state amendment against gay marriage; and number three, our governor had an affair.

People who want to promote South Carolina have to fight against our state legislature, and our state legislature has to come up with other ways to promote tourism. But our state legislature won't even consider any reasonable solutions to the Confederate flag issue!

Why not consider reasonable solutions like H-3588?

Some people ask, ridiculously, "What more do they want?", claiming that, after all, the 2000 compromise, "gave the NAACP what they asked for." Garbage. The NAACP asked for the Confederate flag to be removed from anywhere that a reasonable person might consider as (1) an indication of sovereignty of the Confederacy and/or (2) a public policy message of second-class citizenship for blacks.

The 2000 compromise put the Confederate (battle) flag on a flagpole out in front of the State House, at the most prominent place on the grounds. Not in a glass case, not in bronze, not in a less prominent place, not in a historical display (although it is next to one), and not in a historical context.

It's flying from a flagpole!!!! Where our state flag should fly!!!!!!

What more does the NAACP want? Well, first, the question itself is ridiculous. I mean, why is our state legislature the paternalistic organization that grants favors to different groups? That's a crazy way to think about government!

And anyway, the group that's getting the favor is Sen. Glenn McConnell and his Confederates. The state legislature is doing them a favor, and the NAACP is merely asking the state legislature to stop playing favorites!

So again, thank you NAACP. Keep up the good work.■

Excerpt from Michael's July 17, 2009 Blog Legislature and NAACP Must Act So That SC Can Host NCAA Tournaments

The NCAA is not backing down, and our state is losing money. The NCAA says that South Carolina is an inhospitable environment, neither worthy nor capable of hosting tournaments.

The NAACP postulates that the reason that our state legislature flies the Confederate flag is because our state legislature 1) wishes to pretend that SC is still part of an alive Confederacy and 2) wishes to send a political message that African-Americans are second-class citizens in SC.

These are guesses by the NAACP, and they could be true, who knows? We have to ask the state legislature why they fly the Confederate flag instead of our state flag.

So far the state legislature is not clarifying the reason why they fly the Confederate flag instead of our state flag. And so, the NAACP says, well, we're just going to have to assume that our suppositions are in fact correct. And since we don't agree with the apparent position of the state legislature, we're going to do something about it.

The situation now is this: The NAACP mandates a confusing boycott based on rationale that is guesswork, and the state legislature mandates a confusing display based on rationale that is undisclosed. And the NCAA is so disturbed by this confusion and division that what they see clearly is that South Carolina is an inhospitable environment for NCAA tournaments.

The solution is for the state legislature to clarify, with words and deeds, why they fly the Confederate flag instead of our state flag. The way for them to do this is to pass H-3588.

For the complete blog and more poignant and informative messages from Michael go to <http://takedowntheflag.wordpress.com> Michael is a member of the Goose Creek NAACP■



Lowcountry NAACP Branches Unveil Black Heritage Stamp Nov. 9



The annual Black Heritage stamp was unveiled at the Old Santee Canal State Park Interpretive Center in Moncks Corner. The stamp honors educator Anna Julia Cooper. As the 32nd inductee

we must not let younger generations forget these champions who paved the way for the advancements that we enjoy today.

Special thanks to Santee Cooper and the Old Santee State Park for allowing this unveiling to take place in their awesome facility.

To learn more about the stamp honoree or to obtain a set, log on to:

www.usps.com/shop



into the *Black Heritage* series, the Postal Service honors Anna Julia Cooper (c.1858-1964), an educator, scholar, feminist and activist who gave voice to the African-American community during the 19th and 20th centuries. She was best known for her collection of essays and speeches challenging the notion that African-Americans were naturally inferior.

The ceremony, organized by Goose Creek NAACP Branch President Brenda Bines in collaboration with the Andrews, Charleston, and Moncks Corner NAACP Branches, Postal Service District Communications Coordinator Harry Spratlin, and Charleston Association of African American Life and History President Deena Davis.

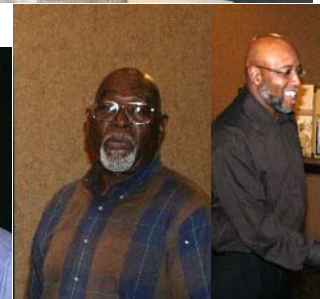


Marrington Middle School student Silas Adams gave a special oration.

After the ceremony the stamps were sold with a free special pictorial postmark.

President Bines remarked, "Monday's ceremony was both inspirational and humbling. I was certainly humbled by the life and achievements of Mrs. Anna Julia Cooper. Her successful pursuit of a PhD seems anachronistic considering when she received it, and in general, the opportunities afforded to African Americans and women. It is within that context that I find inspiration – not just by what she achieved but within the pursuit itself. "Achievements and celebrations like these should renew hope in uncertain times."

As we move forward to celebrate the future,





Lowcountry NAACP Branches Unveil Black Heritage Stamp Nov. 9





Continued from page 3

Students Honored:



Morgan Elizabeth Curry is the daughter of Reverend Eduardo Kelvin Curry, Esquire and The Honorable Judge Tamara Cunningham Curry. She is 16 years old, currently an honor student, and a senior at West Ashley High School, Charleston. She is an active member of The Student Council, Senior Class President, a member of the Interact Member, Spanish Club Member, a member of The Engineering Club, First Chair Violin Player in the Honors Orchestra, a member of three choral groups Troubadours, Gospel Company and Bella Voce and a member of The National Society of High School Scholars. Morgan is a proud member of Grace Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church where she is a very active. Morgan is an aspiring Chemical Engineer and plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology or The University of South Carolina in the fall of 2010.



Somazia Pelzer is the daughter of Kevin and Ezetta McCray. She is 17 years old and a senior honor student at Stratford High School, Goose Creek. Somazia recently relocated to Berkeley County and Stratford High school, she is a very active and involved student. She plays basketball, volleyball, and softball. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Student council, Student government, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Newspaper staff member, and on the Prom Committee. Somazia is an active member of Antioch Baptist Church in Bowman. Upon graduating from high school, Somazia plans on attending South Carolina Stat. Her long term goal is to become a neonatologist in the U.S. Air Force. Neonatology is the medical specialty of taking care of newborn babies, sick babies, and premature babies. Somazia's most well known philosophy is, "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world."

"This is an astonishing group of people," President Bines said of the honorees. She also said, "It goes to show that we are a nation of people of all types of talents."

Two branch members, Jacqueline 'Jackie' Adams and Veronica Dukes were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the branch.

Jackie Adams who received the President's Distinguished Service Award for her work as chairman of the membership committee and her willingness to "chip in when and where needed", said President Bines.



Veronica Duke, a charter member of the branch received the annual Freedom Fund Chairman's Distinguished Service Award. "Veronica has been with the branch since its beginning and been a key asset to putting on the Freedom Fund Banquet since its beginning", said Bines.

"Truly, nobody can do the job alone," said President Bines.



Mr. Bill Watson was presented a special award for his donations and support of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch ACT-SO and Youth activities.

Herbert Bodison, Jr. stepped in as emcee for Leroy Rivers who was called away at the last minute. Mr. Bodison did an excellent job and the event moved along smoothly.



The evening's program included a dinner and live jazz music provided by Rivers and Company a renowned local Jazz group. Rivers and Company entertained guests with an array of 'jazz tunes' throughout the night. Departing guests made favorable comments about the evening of events and look forward to next year's Freedom Fund Gala.



"The NAACP has been an advocate for political, civil, and human rights of all Americans for 100 years. The need to continue this good work has never been greater than right now," President Brenda Bines added. ■



More Gala Photos on Page 11



NAACP CREEK CONNECTION



Barbara Blackwell, Chairperson
2009 Freedom Fund Gala





Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

- Nov 20 Charleston NAACP Freedom Fund
Julian Bond Keynote Speaker
- Nov 26 **THANKSGIVING DAY**
- Dec 1 Lowcountry **WORLD AIDS DAY** March
- Dec 5 Moncks Corner NAACP Centennial
Celebration
- Dec 7 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 18 King Day at the Dome Ben Jealous
NAACP President/CEO Speaker
- Feb 1-28 **February is Black History Month**
- Feb 4 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Mar 1 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- TBA Real Men Cook
- Apr 5 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**

Message from South Carolina ACLU

South Carolina's failed 'War On Drugs'

We showed American Violet, a Hollywood feature film, to rapt and diverse audiences in Charleston and Columbia a few weeks ago. It is the story of a real ACLU victory—the exoneration of a young African-American mother caught up in a Texas drug bust and the repeal of unfair drug laws. But it could happen here in South Carolina.

Did you know?

- We spend \$1 on incarceration for every 49¢ spent on education.
- South Carolina's incarceration rate is in the top fifth of states nationwide. According to the SC Department of Corrections, our state prisons house 10 times the number of drug law violators than they did in 1980 when the 'war on drugs' began.
- South Carolina's drug use rates are comparable with the rest of the U.S., but the rate of imprisonment for drug offenses places us 7th in the nation. Although Whites and African-Americans use drugs at virtually identical rates, the rates of imprisonment for drug offenses are dramatically disproportionate.

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
IS TODAY**



Impact the issues affecting
your community by joining the
NAACP today!

Call 830-9779 or download
application online from:
www.naacpgoosecreek.org

If you are African-American, you are:

- 24 times more likely to go to jail or prison in Charleston County
- 17 times more likely to go to jail or prison in Richland County
- 14 times more likely to go to jail or prison in Greenville County

What should we do?

- Create alternatives to incarceration such as civil penalties, non-prison alternatives and treatment of people with drug problems.
- Let our **judges** judge by eliminating mandatory minimum sentences and 'truth in sentencing.'
- Repeal the 'three strikes' law which punishes minor offenses with major prison terms.
- Prevent recidivism (return to prison) by supporting reintegration into the community. Remove barriers to voting, employment, housing and driving.

Reform the parole system to bar reincarceration for minor technical offenses. The SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services recently reported that 52% of youth offenders—the high-risk group for recidivism—were returned to prison on *technical* offenses.

What can you do now?

The SC legislature will re-convene in January and we will be contacting you to help in asking our elected officials to pass these reforms. You will be able to contact your elected officials in South Carolina and ask them to take action on the failed 'War on Drugs.'

Other states have shown success from creative and pragmatic solutions to the problem of drug use. It's time for South Carolina to shed its 'tough on crime' image for a 'smart on crime' approach to public safety.

Thank you for your continued support,



Victoria Middleton
Executive Director
ACLU SC National Office
www.aclusouthcarolina.org