

House Resolution 556

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39th, Brooks of the 63rd, Collins of the 95th, Smyre of the 132nd, Hugley of the 133rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on its 100th
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
4 was founded on February 12, 1909, and was originally known as the National Negro
5 Committee; and

6 WHEREAS, the founders of the NAACP were a group of multiracial activists who answered
7 the call for a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African
8 Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, the creators of the NAACP included distinguished leaders in the struggle for
10 civil and political liberty for all people such as Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry
11 Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the mission of the NAACP is to ensure equal political, educational, social, and
14 economic rights for all individuals and eliminate racial hatred and discrimination; and

15 WHEREAS, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization,
16 committed to achieving goals through nonviolence; and

17 WHEREAS, the NAACP advances its mission through reliance upon the press, the petition,
18 the ballot, and the courts, not allowing overt and violent racial hostility to deter its calling;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, political pressure, marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying have been
21 used by the NAACP to ensure that the voices of the minorities of America are heard; and

22 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP won
23 the fight to desegregate public schools in its greatest legal victory with the Supreme Court's
24 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for courageously
26 refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, which served as
27 the catalyst for the largest grassroots civil rights movement in the history of the United
28 States; and

29 WHEREAS, the NAACP has been prominent in lobbying for ground-breaking equal
30 protection legislation, including the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting
31 Rights Act of 1965, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting
32 Rights Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, and the Fair Housing Act; and

33 WHEREAS, in 2005 the NAACP launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help the hurricane
34 survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama rebuild their lives; and

35 WHEREAS, on February 12, 2009, the NAACP will mark its 100th anniversary, launching
36 a full year of celebrations and observances at its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and
37 1,700 local offices throughout the nation; and

38 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body express its appreciation for the great advancements
39 made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People over the past 100
40 years.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 members of this body recognize the National Association for the Advancement of Colored
43 People for the organization's significant role in leading social change in America and extend
44 congratulations on the remarkable occasion of its 100th anniversary.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the National Association for
47 the Advancement of Colored People.