

U.S. House and Senate "honor and praise" NAACP for 100th anniversary

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Both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate saluted the NAACP with "honor and praise" by unanimously passing a resolution to officially recognize the organization on its 100th anniversary, which was February 12. Recognition came with the unanimous passage of legislation (H. Con. Res. 35) by both the House and the Senate. H. Con. Res. 35 was introduced by US Rep. Al Green (TX), and passed the House by a unanimous vote of 424-0. It later passed the Senate by a unanimous vote as well. Green, who has introduced similar resolutions every year, has been a champion of several NAACP legislative efforts.

During debate on the resolution, Green said, "in the inner sanctum of my soul, I believe that although the arc of the moral universe is long, as Dr. King put it, it bends toward justice. However, I must confess that in the cognitive confines of my cranium, I know that it does so because of organizations like the NAACP."

Republican Congressman Lamar Smith, also of Texas, said during the debate, "For a century now, the NAACP has fought to bring justice and racial equality to all of America."

US Rep. Sam Farr ((D-CA) said, "...the founders of the NAACP offer an important lesson on how such a diverse group can accomplish so much. The men and women--black and white, from different backgrounds and from different careers and from different religions--these people came together to create a force for good."

US Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) said, "The NAACP is an organization that has made a difference from the very beginning."

In the Senate, an identical resolution, S. Con. Res. 3 was introduced by Sen. Christopher Dodd (CT) also a long-time champion for the NAACP. Dodd and Sen. Roland Burris (IL) (who is a life-time member of the NAACP) both spoke about the NAACP and the positive impact it has had on America. The White House also acknowledged the organization's 100th anniversary.

Vice President of Advocacy and Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau, Hilary Shelton, commended the Congress for its recognition, and stated that he and the NAACP "look forward to continued work with Congress and the White House in making democracy real for all Americans."

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In both cases, the resolutions detail the founding of the NAACP, much of the work that has been accomplished by the Association over the last 100 years through non-violent means, as well several of its more recent legislative work. The resolutions ended by recognizing "the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People" and honoring and praising "the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons."