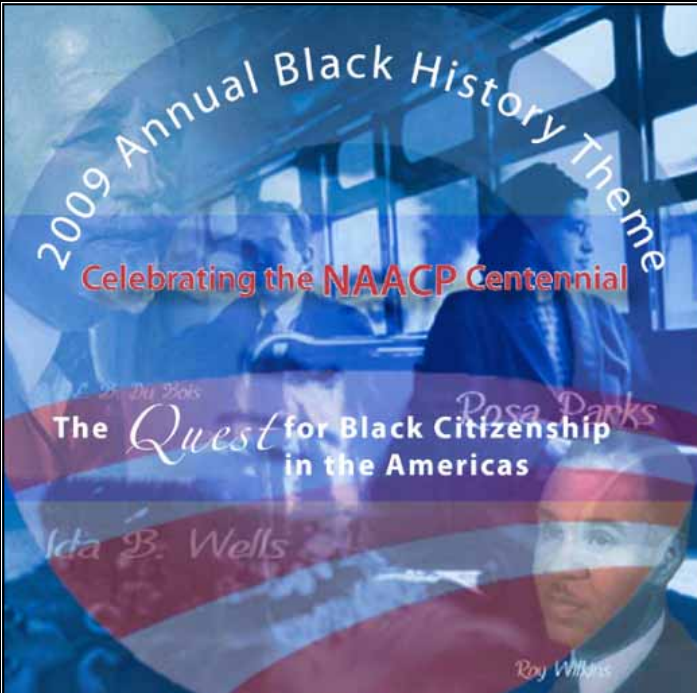




Goose Creek SC NAACP Branch #56A3 February 2009 Newsletter Volume 4, Edition 1

**The 2009 Black History Theme:
Celebrating the NAACP Centennial - The
Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas**



February is Black History Month in Canada, Jamaica and the United States. The annual observance was founded in 1926 by the American historian Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950). He also founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), <http://www.asalh.org>.

Black History Theme:

Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas
The need for economic development has been a central element of black life. After centuries of unrequited toil as slaves, African Americans gained their freedom and found themselves in the struggle to make a living. The chains were gone, but racism was everywhere. Black codes often prevented blacks from owning land in towns and cities, and in the countryside they were often denied the opportunity to purchase land. Organized labor shut their doors to their brethren, and

even the white philanthropist who funded black schools denied them employment opportunities once educated. In the South, whites sought to insure that blacks would only be sharecroppers and day laborers, and in the North whites sought to keep them as unskilled labor.

Pushing against the odds, African Americans became landowners, skilled workers, small businessmen and women, professionals, and ministers. In the Jim Crow economy, they started insurance companies, vocational

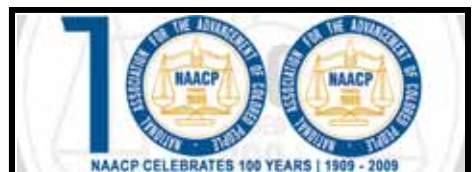
schools, teachers colleges, cosmetic firms, banks, newspapers, and hospitals. To fight exclusion from the economy, they started their own unions and professional associations. In an age in which individuals proved unable to counter industrialization alone, they preached racial or collective uplift rather than individual self-reliance. The late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed an unprecedented degree of racial solidarity and organization.

The election of Barack Obama as the first African American president of African descent will mark a watershed in American history. Carter G. Woodson was fond of quoting a nineteenth-century novelist who wrote that the romance of America was the fate of the Negro. Neither the founding fathers nor the African slaves could have ever imagined a day when a black man would hold the

most exalted office in the nation.

A century ago, when a group of men and women—whites and blacks, Jews and Gentiles—joined ranks and formed the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*, they were visionaries. In the abolitionist tradition, carrying on the work of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, of William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips, they saw through a stormy sky of racial oppression and despair. With African Americans being disenfranchised and segregated, lynched and raped, uneducated or miseducated, and everywhere casually maligned, the NAACP lit a torch for equality and social justice.

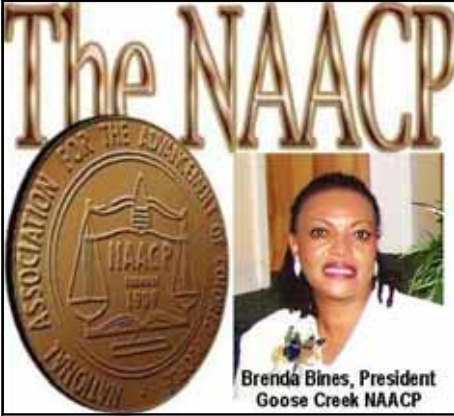
Committed to struggle and armed with hope, the NAACP constituted the vanguard in the movement for full citizenship, and they continue to press the cause of equality and social justice. As the grand ole civil rights organization marks its centennial, the progress of black citizenship cannot be better symbolized than by the election of Barack Obama. O, what a century!■



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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 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting
Monday Feb 2, 2009 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday Mar 2, 2009

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Eddie Anderson	Betty Jones
Barbara Blackwell	Thomas Lanier
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Veronica Dukes	Robert Newton
Andrea Glover	Paul W. Staggars, Jr.
Beverly Hargrow	Clarence Turner
Ranese Harrell	Eyamba Williams
Jenae Haynes	

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY 2009



Get Educated! Get Tested!
Get Involved! Get Treated!
www.blackaidsday.org

FREE HIV/AIDS Testing

5-9PM Saturday
February 7, 2009
at

Food Lion

1316 Redbank Rd
Goose Creek, SC

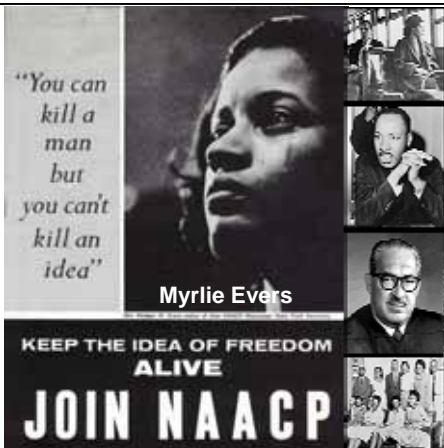
Sponsored by SC DHEC, Goose Creek NAACP
and Food Lion Store #410

The Goose Creek NAACP Education Committee will have an SAT and College Preparation Workshop

SATURDAY February 7th
from 9AM to 12 Noon

Location: Greater Mount Zion A.M.E. Church
464 Howe Hall Road; Goose Creek, SC

For More Information contact Andrea Glover at 729-7994



SATURDAY February 7th
from 9AM to 12 Noon

The GOOSE CREEK NAACP
ACT-SO COMMITTEE WILL HAVE AN ACT-SO
INFORMATIONAL MEETING

at

Greater Mount Zion A.M.E. Church
464 Howe Hall Road; Goose Creek, SC

For More Information
Contact Marlene Lemon at 469-2371



Lowcountry NAACP Centennial Celebration

5PM February 15th
at

Charity Baptist Church
1544 E Montague Ave
North Charleston, SC
843-744-2737



KING DAY at the DOME

January 19, 2009
Columbia, SC

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the Dome is a time of reflection. It's so very important that we never look at Dr. King's Day as a Black holiday. It transcends race, giving all people a chance to look at themselves. Dr. King's dream wasn't just for Black people. His dream is bigger than that, bigger than us as a people.

Every year, the SC State Conference of the NAACP organizes a magnificent event for Martin Luther King Day. The event begins with a prayer breakfast at Zion Baptist Church, continues with a march to the State House, and finishes with a program of songs and speeches from the steps of the State House. The whole event is called, "King Day at the Dome."

This year's turnout was one of the smallest crowds since the state NAACP's began the annual King Day at the Dome rally in 2000. However Tuesday's inauguration of Barack Obama as the first American of African descent to become President of the United States made it one of the most encouraged gatherings.

NAACP State President Dr. Lonnie Randolph said Tuesday's inauguration is a sign the nation is changing. "I am indeed happy for this moment and this country. For you and to see that America has made some minor changes in the way it does business," said Dr. Randolph.

Dr. Randolph also pointed out there is still much more work to do and the NAACP will continue to fight injustice.

"If you think our work will stop now, I'm here to tell you that you're wrong. We have been here fighting for justice since W. H. Taft was the 27th President of the United States," said Randolph.

The music and the speeches at the prayer breakfast were outstanding. We marched last year, and we marched again this year. There were lots of people, lots of cheers, and lots of signs. My favorite signs were from a family that had a series of signs. The first said, "Rosa Parks sat so that Martin Luther King could walk." The second said, "Martin Luther King walked so that Barack Obama could run." And the third said, "Barack Obama ran so that we could fly." Another great sign was one that said something like, "NAACP: We Stand on Principles, Not Compromise." I've



been thinking about this sign a lot.

NAACP National Board of Directors member, James Gallman, said, "While the attendance was down considerably due to many people attending the Inauguration, the spirit was very high." NAACP President and CEO Ben Jealous was unable to attend. "Therefore, the Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III gave some very *fired up* words to charge up the participants. Dr. Lonnie Randolph's words were the highlight of why we were there and how

long we will be there."

The relevant principles about the Confederate flag are that (1) our state government mustn't fly the Confederate flag because flying it is confusing and divisive and (2) our state government must respect and remember the service and the sacrifice of the Confederate soldiers. What's the compromise all about?

Let's turn to our Governor's description of compromise. Here's what Gov. Sanford told Wolf Blitzer: "What I think is that the nature of a compromise is that everybody gives up a little something, and nobody walks away completely happy." There's the key word: everybody. So, when we're talking compromise, we're talking about people, or groups of people, and what they're getting, what they're giving up, and how, at the end of the day, they're not happy.

But we're talking about principles here, not compromise.

There's the right thing to do, and whoever is for the right thing, great. We should all be for the right thing. What's the right thing?

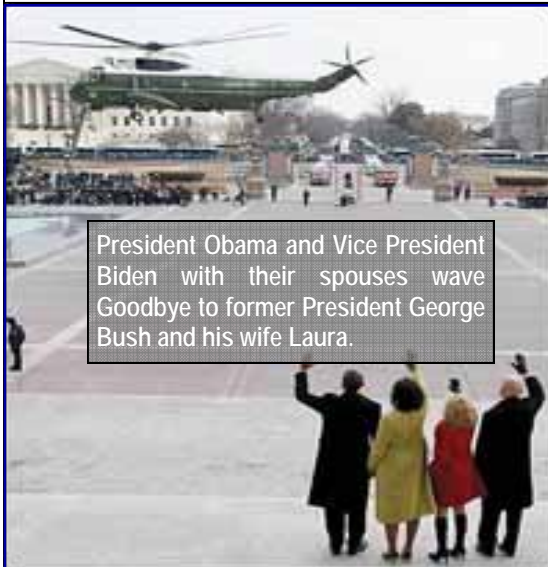
First, the right thing is that our state government must not fly the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. The action by our state government to fly the Confederate flag promotes confusion and division, and this action is therefore antithetical to our state government's mission of promoting clarity and unity. We must take down the flag. Taking down the flag in order to help promote clarity and unity is the action that the SC State Conference of the NAACP advocates for, and very many people agree with them.

See King Day at the Dome on page 7



INAUGURATION HISTORY

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING
NAACP CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



President Obama and Vice President Biden with their spouses wave Goodbye to former President George Bush and his wife Laura.

on the platform, as well as his wife Michelle, First Lady Laura Bush and Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney.

U.S. President George W. Bush emerged with Cheney, who was in a wheelchair after straining his back lifting boxes last week, a wooden cane on his lap. Michelle Obama clutched the gilt-edged Lincoln Bible, which hadn't been used in an inauguration since 1861.

The crowds were on hand to witness a watershed moment in a country with a shameful history of slavery and segregation — a moment that Obama himself is expected to temper with a pointed reminder that difficult days are ahead.

It all happens at the west front of the city's Capitol building, in front of a sprawling crowd with dignitaries and VIPs that include former presidents, movie stars and iconic athletes like Muhammad Ali.

Already a glorious structure, the Capitol has been dressed to the nines for the historic event, elegantly draped with starry indigo bunting, flowing columns of red and white fabric and banks of snow-white bleachers for thousands of spectators.

Before the sun had even risen Tuesday, those determined to be on hand for the ceremony had started working their way into the National Mall to take in the spectacle.

Millions of them — all different colors, ages and nationalities — were expected in the Mall and along the inaugural parade route down Pennsylvania Avenue, from the Capitol to the White House.

Obama and Biden and their families began their day with a private service at St. John's Episcopal Church, a tradition for those about to become president.

The couple waved to bystanders, then entered the church to applause from about 200 people. The Rev. Luis Leon

welcomed the Obamas and said every president since James Madison has worshipped at the church at least once, "some of them kicking and screaming."

Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr., of Los Angeles, drew murmurs and chuckles when he blessed the Obamas and asked that "they may finish these two terms in office" stronger than they are now. Obama, of course, would have to win re-election in 2012 to serve a second term.

Just beyond the White House fence, huge crowds braved freezing temperatures and jostled for positions to see — with the naked eye or on Jumbotron screens — Obama take the oath of office as the 44th president and the first black man to hold the title.

They've been in D.C. for days, cramming the streets snapping pictures, buying all manner of Obama memorabilia and attending a massive outdoor concert at Lincoln Memorial in honor of their political hero.

For many of them, Obama's successful run for the presidency not only represents a long-overdue shattering of the race barrier, but a return to honor in politics the likes of which hasn't been seen since the 1960s with iconic figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

Americans sobered by enduring conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and an ongoing economic meltdown won't be alone in counting on the new U.S. president to deliver on the impending era of hope he's promised since his momentous electoral victory in November.

The rest of the world, weary of war and ravaged by the economic meltdown, is also optimistic.

Obama has been careful to remind Americans — in almost all his public remarks since winning the election — of the mammoth challenges confronting

See Inauguration on page 6



At the request of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch Governor Sanford signs resolution proclaiming Saturday February 7th Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in South Carolina

FEBRUARY 7, 2009

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

NBHAAD is an annual community mobilization initiative founded in 1999. The following organizations serve on the NBHAAD Strategic Leadership Council and are responsible for planning, direction and oversight of NBHAAD 2008.

- Alliances for Quality Education
-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
-Healthy Black Communities
-Jackson State University - MURC
-My Brother's Keeper
-National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
-National Black Alcoholism and Addictions Council
-National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS

To register your event, view HIV/AIDS data, order supplies and materials and get more information, log on to the website: WWW.BLACKAIDSDAY.ORG.

GET EDUCATED!
GET TESTED!
GET INVOLVED!
GET TREATED!



FREE HIV/AIDS Testing

5-9PM Saturday February 7, 2009

at Food Lion

1316 Redbank Rd Goose Creek, SC

Sponsored by SC DHEC, Goose Creek NAACP and Food Lion Store #410

State of South Carolina Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, significant health disparities exist among African American and other minority groups for preventable health conditions and diseases including HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, African Americans account for approximately thirty percent of the state's population, yet account for an estimated seventy-three percent of recently diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, seven out of every ten men and nearly eight out of every 10 women recently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are African American, as are eighty percent of the newly diagnosed 15 to 24 year-olds; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 observance of Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day draws attention to the importance of prevention by urging individuals to get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2009, as

BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work to raise awareness on the need to get educated about HIV/AIDS, get tested, get involved, and get treated.



Handwritten signature of Mark Sanford

MARK SANFORD GOVERNOR STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



African Americans & Medicine

During Black History Month we celebrate the remarkable contributions African Americans have made to the history of the United States. While there is much that we know of our role in American history, many contributions have not been documented because of the circumstances and conditions that existed during the Civil War and the Reconstruction and Post Reconstruction Periods.

In the early history of medicine in this country, the struggle African American physicians faced also has not been sufficiently documented. African American physicians faced tremendous barriers in both becoming physicians as well as barriers to practice after they became physicians. In spite of being as well trained as their white counterparts, many black physicians could not establish practices large enough to allow them to make a living. Many practiced medicine only at night and became known as "Sundown Physicians." Many others went back to school to get degrees in dentistry and pharmacy and practiced as dentists and pharmacists during the day and physicians at night.

Dr. Robert Boyd helped to destroy the sundown physician concept. Born a slave around 1858, Dr. Boyd overcame tremendous barriers to graduate from Fisk University and Meharry Medical College. He received postgraduate training from the University of Michigan and post-medical school training in Chicago. Dr. Boyd's extensive medical training, his willingness to practice in local jails and mental institutions, and his unique drive helped him become a very successful and well-respected physician in his community. More information on Dr. Boyd and the history of African American physicians is available in the book, Race, Medicine and Health in the United States from 1812 to 1900, by Drs. Michael Byrd and Linda A. Clayton. This book provides insight into why many African Americans to this day have a major distrust of the American medical system.

Learning our African American history will help us to understand the present and better control our future. I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, closing the gap in health care for African Americans and the underserved.

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Inauguration continued from page 4

him and the country in the face of the ongoing economic crisis.

His inaugural address not only touched on the tough road ahead, but focused on the importance of taking responsibility — from government officials and business owners to everyday Americans.

The outpouring of goodwill towards Obama — he's currently enjoying an approval rating of 80 per cent — is undeniably linked to distaste for Bush, who's leaving office with the lowest ratings in modern presidential history. ■



Goose Creek Branch President Brenda Bines with National NAACP President & CEO Benjamin Jealous at NAACP DC Welcome Center



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Subscription
to
The CRISIS

for just
\$30

To Join The NAACP Now
Contact
Jackie Adams at 824-8241
Or
Eddie Anderson at 553-9648

NAACP Inaugural Welcome Center at the Lansburg Theater in Washington, DC



The NAACP Inaugural Welcome Center was awesome! There was a worship service and Spoken Word Showcase on Sunday for NAACP members and this panel discussion on Monday.



*Membership
is Power!*
Join Today





King Day at the Dome from page 3

Second, the right thing is that the people who fought for the Confederacy should be judged by the content of their character, the decisions that they made, and the actions that they took. In general, the Confederate soldiers fought



because their state asked them to, because their friends and family asked them to, and because they wanted to defend their homes, their families, and their liberty. The inscriptions on the Confederate Soldier Monument are beautiful and inspirational.

We must never forget the service and the sacrifice of the Confederate soldiers. Remembering and respecting the Confederate soldiers is something Sen. Glenn McConnell and others advocate for, and very many people agree with them.

We know the right things to do. We know the two principles. Let's figure out solutions, not compromises. At takedowntheflag, we focus on the issue, the principles, and the solutions. We refuse to accept the notion that everybody is divided into two camps where one promotes principle 1 at the expense of principle 2 and the other promotes principle 2 at the expense of principle 1.

Unfortunately, too many people focus on the principals instead of the principles.

This issue is not a contest between flag-supporters and flag-opposers. The NAACP is trying to put political pressure on our state

legislators so that our legislators will find a principled solution to the issue. The NAACP is doing its job. Our state legislators are not doing theirs.

The NAACP and others are interested in brainstorming and collaborating to find responsible solutions that satisfy the principles. For example, in April 2007, the Reverend House Bill H-3588, which was proposed almost two years ago (Feb 27, 2007) and which completely satisfies both principles. I thought it was brilliant. I hope it gets reintroduced. I'm all for it or for anything that can satisfy both principles and resolve this issue.■

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Michael Rodgers the primary contributor to this article and James Gallman who also contributed to this article.



Greetings to All of You, "Our NAACP Family."

I would like to thank the members of the branch for electing me to serve as your president. Congratulations to all newly elected and reelected executive committee and at-large committee members. Special thanks to all who participated so effectively and efficiently in the 2009 King Day at the Dome planning meeting and event. The potential for greatness of this organization depend upon each one of you, and with this we genuinely seek your continued support.

We solicit your support in 2009-2010 as we continue to "Stir Up Love." We must educate our leaders; continue to change the self-image of people of color; change the world's response of us; and take control of our own destiny. We celebrate with Barak Obama in his victory as the first African-American President but we remain vigilant in our on-going struggle for freedom.

Lastly, remember on February 12, 2009, the NAACP will mark its 100th anniversary. We must continue to work and highlight the significant role the organization has played in leading social change in America.

*Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek Branch*



From Left to Right: Orville Hayes (2nd VP of Goose Creek Branch NAACP), Thomas Lanier (Charter Member Goose Creek Branch NAACP), John Matthews NAACP Life Member), Mayor Michael Heitzler, Brenda Bines (President of Goose Creek Branch NAACP), Police Chief Harvey Becker (Member Goose Creek Branch NAACP) and Marchelle Eichelberger (HIV Program Manager with SC DHEC Region 7 and NAACP Member)

City of Goose Creek South Carolina Mayor Issues Proclamations

GOOSE CREEK, SC - In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Goose Creek Mayor Michael Heitzler signed a proclamation declaring February 12, 2009 to be "Goose Creek NAACP Branch Day" in Goose Creek.

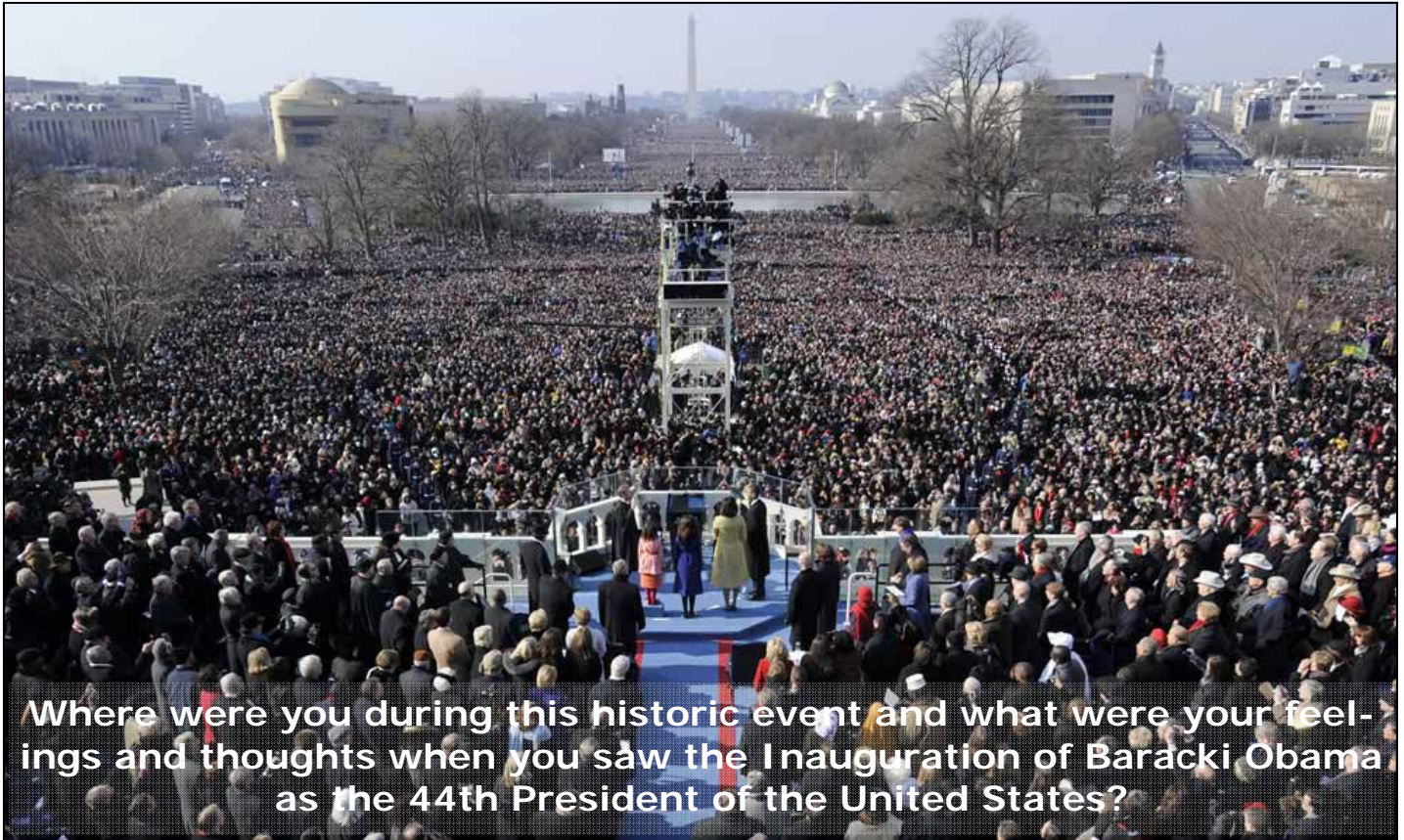
Since 1909, the NAACP has worked to advance the social, political and economic conditions of ethnic people of color. Since its inception, the group has fought discrimination in the military, at the voting polls and in public accommodations. The NAACP is dedicated to the objective of securing full enjoyment of citizenship rights, justices in all courts and equality of opportunity for all.

In addition, the Mayor signed a proclamation declaring February 7, 2009 to be "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in the City. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and overseen by a Strategic Leadership Council made up of eight organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to mobilize community-based organizations and stakeholders involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. ■

THE NAACP

The fight for civil rights continues...





Where were you during this historic event and what were your feelings and thoughts when you saw the Inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States?

Here's what some of our members, friends, and supporters said

January 20th, 2009 will go down as another landmark day in America's great history; however, for the African American community it needs to go as a call to action for change. There are many problems that has America looking for a stimulus (education issues, need for health care reform, economic growth and development for the rural community to name a few) but none of those things will happen until we go back into the community and use our collective resources to make our community stronger and more prepare for the challenges our country face. I hope that this great day will not be remembered as just a day in history but the start of a movement.



Jerome Bryant, NAACP Member

It was an awesome moment to see happen in history. This morning when I woke up I could feel the climate change in the world, I could sense the urgency in his voice to get issues resolved, and I felt his confidence comfort



"FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN!" HEBREWS 11:1
Eyamba Williams, Goose Creek NAACP



I was "full" with pride as I watched the event on TV. I could barely control my emotions as I witnessed an event that I never felt would happen in my lifetime. It was great to see the sea of people there watching history being made. I hope we all realize that this is but a small part of Dr. King's dream. It is a step to seeing the full dreamed realized if we put forth the effort to doing our part.

We must remember that President Obama can only do so much. There is a large part that each one of us must do. Let's pray for him, but work along with him to move this

country forward.

James Gallman, Member NAACP National Board of Directors

I am still pinching myself, this was the most emotional, inspirational, and truly a awesome day. I have been glued to the TV and internet all day. I was at the march on Washington in 63 and this is surely a dream come true, but yet the dream is not yet complete we still have a lot of work to do. Let us keep our President Obama and his family in prayer.

Sondra Scott, Member Goose Creek NAACP Branch



I watched some of the inauguration on the television here at work in the break room with some other employees and then listened to some on the car radio as I had to run an errand across town. I felt I was witnessing a landmark in history – something extraordinary that will be recorded and highlighted forever in the history books of this great nation, and

Continued on page 10



Continued from page 9

an event that today's generations and all future generations will commemorate.

*Harvey Becker
Chief of Police City of Goose Creek*

From the countdown, until the day the oath was actually done was just so humanly awesome. I spent every waking moment watching and reading everything that said President-elect Barrack Obama. This man has motivated all people to a sense of being that is simply spiritual. Even if another Black person should become elected again, it would never be the same. He has broken the bondage of I can't, to, the Yes I Can do anything, if I set my heart and mind to it. He is all inclusive to all people. He is an inspiration to all people. God has truly blessed America.

*Samuella (Sam) Holmes
North Charleston Chapter NAACP*



It was a phenomenal, inspiring and unforgettable experience. The synergy appeared to be not of this world but of a world from a Biblical experience. If I could bottle up the synergy of this event, I would be a rich woman in many, many, aspects of life.

*Brenda Bines
Goose Creek NAACP Branch*



On January 20, 2009, I began my day in front of my television at 6:00 a.m. not to miss anything on this historical day. Being the first African American to graduate from the then all white high school in Georgetown, SC, watching President Obama take the oath of office as the 44th President gave me a sense of pride and brought tears of joy to my eyes and laughter to my soul. I thought of Langston Hughes's poems "Mother to Son" and "I, Too, Sing America." My life, our lives "...ain't been no crystal stair..." I thank God for allowing me to see part of Dr. King's dream come to fruition.

*H. Jean Brown
Life Member NAACP
Charleston, SC Branch*

When President Obama was sworn in today as

President of the United States, I was overwhelmed with pride as an American. President Obama renewed the hope of many Americans on today, and reminded us what a great country we live in. Although, America has faced numerous obstacles during the past months, we as a country have a new found hope, that we the people can restore America back to the great country she is. I hope that many Americans will remember that President Obama, will need help in rebuilding our great country. Let today be the beginning of our great country being restored to her rightful place.

*Latosha Jenkins
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services*



I watched the inauguration in one of the conference rooms at the district office with some other members of the district staff. I felt it was a very moving event. As I watched on television I could not help but notice the huge cross section of America present in Washington, DC to witness this historic event. They represented Americans from all walks of life, many different religions, a variety of races and cultures, a cross-section of nationalities and those with varying political beliefs. As I listened to our president speak, I felt his hope, pictured his dreams and shared his pride in this great country of ours. Given our current economic crisis and the fact that we are fighting two wars, I feel that Americans need the inspiration that President Obama brings to our country. I believe our president when he says, "Yes, we can!" Not only do I believe we can, I believe we will!

*Archie Franchini
Interim Superintendent
Berkeley County School District*

I find it quite astonishing that the Chief Justice did not know the Oath for The President Of The United States. Or did he? and, just wanted to attempt a flaw in the ceremony. Interesting!

T.J. Wilson
The crowd was incredible and it was wonderful to be in the middle of it. I was totally impressed and struck by the great diversity and genuine caring and approachability of



everyone. There were people from different countries that flew over to be a part of it, people from every state, just common people, nobody special. I was also struck by the age. There were so many young people, and then you saw older people. There was so much diversity in the crowd and everyone was so friendly and nice. We were in a situation that could have been mob like, but they didn't behave like a mob. They were kind and courteous. I just think that mood is what I see as the biggest change. The mood of the country is different. I can just feel it.

As always, Barack Obama was articulate, eloquent and passionate. He spoke in an intelligent, intellectual way that was not condescending, but could be easily understood by all people. He was clear about what the call to action is, not just for the government but for the people. It was a very impressive, no-nonsense inaugural address, absolutely fitting for the times, and...it brought tears to my eyes and goose bumps to my skin!

I believe because we have tasted the bitterness of the civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds can someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.

*Andrea Glover, Charter Member
Goose Creek NAACP Branch*



I am proud to be an American. President and Laura Bush were kind, cordial and affectionate when they greeted and welcomed the Obamas to the White House. All of them are a class act! The Obama girls are adorable and shone brightly for all of us. We are in good hands!

*Michael Heitzler, Mayor
City of Goose Creek, SC*

Continued on page 11



As I watched the swearing in, I couldn't help but notice the unity and energy that was in great numbers. The word united has a new meaning. People came from near and far with a sense of pride to witness this historical event. Only Mr. Obama could deliver that kind energy from all the people witnessing the swearing in. The support was overwhelming for renewed hope as a people; especially the youth of our great nation.

God has truly blessed America.

I must add that the crowd was very orderly considering the mass of people.

Jeanette Willis



I attended the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, my first presidential inauguration. It was absolutely fabulous. Despite the tremendous crowd, everyone displayed an attitude of acceptance and cordiality. It was an event that will go down in history as one of our greatest moments.

*Madie Robinson, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors
President, Florence NAACP Branch*

Reflections on the Inauguration

by
The Reverend Brendolyn L. Jenkins
President of the Aiken Branch



On Saturday, January 17th in the City of Aiken we celebrated the renaming of Highway 19. It is now known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

Over 25 churches, businesses, organizations and individuals donated for a memorial marker that was dedicated at the epicenter of the Black community in Aiken. The celebration was quite impactful because this was the culmination of a fourteen year effort. It provided a wonderful starting point for the rest of the historic three days ahead of us. (see aikenstandard.com)

I traveled to DC with two of my daughters, my youngest sister and her daughter who flew in from Ireland. We wanted to witness history in the making, but more importantly for us, we went to pay homage to my mother, the late Johnnie Ruth Jenkins. She was a tireless warrior for freedom, justice and equality. She was present for Dr. King's I Have a Dream speech at the March on Washington. I was absolutely awestruck by the young ones understanding that it is on her back and shoulders and grave that they stand now enjoying the fruits of her labor.

Our celebration began the moment we left Columbia for the drive to Washington. All along I-95 were folks waving and honking their horns. We painted the back windshield of my car with "O - Yes We Did". Folks were taking pictures of it, giving high fives as they rode past and even blowing kisses at us.

I told the family that we were going to Washington the way we had to go at one time. So I packed a shoebox (albeit a plastic one) with fried chicken, light bread, pound cake and sodas! When we stopped to refuel the workers in the stores gave us well

wishes for the journey.

We could not get on the Mall after braving winter's cold blast. We were able to get a great space along the parade route. We watched the ceremony from the jumbotron that was set up at the Canadian Consulate. I believe that my tears started to flow the moment it began.

I became consumed with emotion and openly wept the moment President Obama stepped forward to take his oath. At first I felt self conscious, but then just let the tears stream when I realized that all around me were people doing likewise.

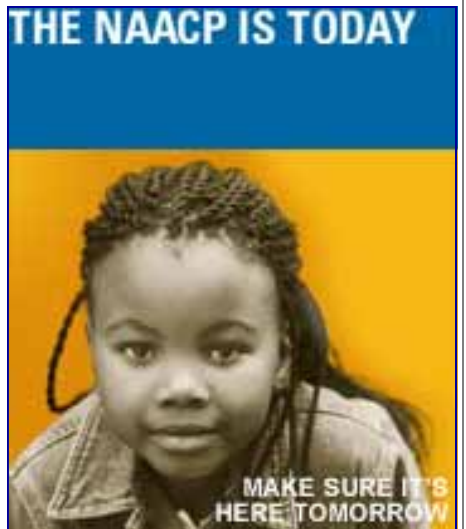
We returned to finish watching the coverage from the warmth of my aunt's living room. We had our own Family Inauguration Ball. This is a day that I look forward to telling my grandchildren about one day.

To God Be The Glory■

Special thanks to the Reverend Brendolyn Jenkins for sharing this story with us.

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH LUNCHEON
Get Your Tickets!**
**Charleston Area Branch of
Association for the Studies of
African American Life & History
(ASALH)**
**13th Annual Luncheon
12 Noon Saturday
February 21, 2009
Donation: \$25.00
Location: Avery Institute
125 Bull Street; Charleston**

Contact:
 Barbara Blackwell (diva4829403@yahoo.com)
 President of Charleston Branch ASALH
 for tickets and more information.





Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

- Feb 2nd 7PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Feb 7th Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** - Free Confidential HIV/AIDS Testing at the Food Lion Located at 1316 Redbank Road; Goose Creek
- Feb 7th SAT Preparation Workshop**
- Feb 12th NAACP 100th Anniversary**
GOOSE CREEK NAACP BRANCH DAY in the City of Goose Creek, South Carolina
The 40TH NAACP IMAGE AWARDS -will broadcast on FOX TV Station. The broadcast coincides with NAACP's 100th Anniversary
- Feb 15th Lowcountry NAACP Centennial Celebration** at Charity Baptist Church in North Charleston
- Mar 5th 7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**



NAACP Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary In 2009: Mark Calendar For Year-Long Centennial Events

On February 12, 2009, the NAACP will mark its 100th anniversary! The NAACP Headquarters, based in Baltimore, MD, along with its 1,700 units nationwide, will host celebrations and observances throughout the year ending with our Annual Convention in 2010 that highlight the significant role the organization has played in leading social change in America.

Following is a partial listing of upcoming events for your planning calendars. For regular updates, please visit www.naacp.org.

- Feb. 6 & 7, 2009 "The Civil Rights Century: The NAACP at 100"
Johns Hopkins University Center for Africana Studies
Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
Contact: (410) 516-6385
- Feb. 12, 2009 **100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP**
- Feb. 12, 2009 **GOOSE CREEK NAACP BRANCH DAY!**
Activities TBA
Contact: 843-442-1319
- Feb. 12, 2009 **40th Annual NAACP Image Awards**
Airs live, nationwide on the FOX network at 8 p.m. EST
- Feb. 15, 2009 (5 PM) **LOWCOUNTRY NAACP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**
CHARITY Baptist Church
1544 E Montague Ave
North Charleston, SC 29405
The Reverend Nelson A. Rivers, Pastor
Contact: 843-747-2737
- Feb. 21, 2009 Charleston Association for the Studies of African American Life & History (ASALH)
12 Noon Luncheon
Avery Institute
125 Bull Street
Charleston, SC
Contact: Barbara Blackwell, President
843-291-8787

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