



NAACP

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA BRANCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Member:

Recently the United States Attorney General Merrick Garland delivered a policy address on voting rights and the work the Department of Justice (DOJ) is undertaking to protect and expand access to the ballot box.. As the president of our local branch of the NAACP we stand in agreement with our national organization with the following statement:

“We commend Attorney General Garland for bringing urgently-needed attention to the disgraceful and relentless threats to voting rights in this country and highlighting the ways in which these efforts pointedly seek to suppress Black political participation. We are encouraged that the Department of Justice is taking this threat seriously and reaffirming its long-held duty of civil rights enforcement, including protecting and expanding the right to vote.”

With Ft. Benning being one of the 10 Army bases targeted by a congressional directive in the 2021 defense policy bill I was asked what the local branch’s position was.

Statues and symbols matter. They matter quite a lot. To Blacks confederate monuments are more than reminders of our racist past, which includes slavery, the Civil War and Jim Crow. They are symbols of our racist present, Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ferguson, Missouri and Charleston, South Carolina.

To most Black citizens in the country, state, and this city the Confederate flag is as offensive to us as the swastika is to the Jewish community. That is because we know the history behind it.

To those who argue that the removal of such statues in prominent public settings and renaming of military installations as well as schools and public facilities dishonors the memory of those who died fighting for the Confederacy I have this to say. There are other places for that — on battlefields, cemeteries and or museums. The Confederates lost the war. The winners were the thousands of soldiers; black and white who fought for the United States and died to protect this country. It dishonors them to celebrate the men who killed them and tried to kill off our nation.

In addition to those who say this is an attempt to erase history I would have to emphatically disagree. History will still be taught and studied. People will know who Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and Henry L. Benning were. And perhaps this time they will be able to learn the true contributions of Blacks in America.

Nearly half of America’s armed forces, 43%, are members of minority groups, and at least 20% are Black. The mere fact that we must discuss keeping the names of the guardians of slavery on our military bases is an atrocity. It is an affront to those who serve today and should matter to the culture of inclusivity and unity needed for us to coexist.

Please continue to visit our website and Facebook page for updates regarding your Columbus Branch NAACP.

Finally, I thank you in advance for your continued support and invite you to get involved with your branch. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me at presidentnaacp5187b@gmail.com

Sincerely

Wane A. Hailes,
President
Columbus GA Branch NAACP

Columbus Branch NAACP



You're Invited To
Our New Members
Reception

Tuesday June 22, 2021
7-8:15pm

Creme De La Creme Catering and Diner
6381 Milgen Rd #5 Columbus, Georgia
Light Refreshments Served

Come Meet Your NAACP Leadership Team

www.naacpcolumbus.com

Moments from the New Membership Reception



UPCOMING EVENTS

NAACP General Meeting Dates

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Saturday 11:30am | July 10, 2021 |
| Saturday 11:30am | August 14, 2021 |
| Saturday 11:30am | September 11, 2021 |
| Saturday 11:30am | October 16, 2021 |
| Saturday 11:30am | November 13, 2021 |
| Saturday 11:30am | December 11, 2021 |

*Until further notice all meetings will be held via Zoom

FOR ALL MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING ID: 875 1384 4403 PASSCODE: 714740

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