

NAACP NEWS

www.naacp.org

www.naacpmarshallmo.org



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2005

NAACP CHALLENGES ATTEMPTS TO RESURECT THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

The Missouri State Conference of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during its Quarterly Meeting today in Columbia, MO expressed their extreme hurt and disappointment that Governor Blunt has decided to divide the State by resurrecting the disdainful ideologies that the Confederate Flag epitomizes. The body, condemning any efforts to raise the Confederate Flag in any way, unanimously passed a resolution.

To suggest the symbol of a war that sought to tear apart this country, advocated the degradation and devaluing of men, women and children based on the color of someone's skin, and sought to treat human beings as live stock and animals, somehow today is worthy of any more discussion is unimaginable. Moreover, for anyone to imply or even suggest that a symbol that was used to terrorize, threaten, intimidate, bully and frighten individuals can somehow retain any value in our society is absurd.

According to Mary Ratliff, State Conference President "for the State to support or give the appearance that the cause this flag depicts represents the values of Missouri or the country is an affront and insult to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the Union, the Constitution and this United States. Sunday, will be a sad day for Missouri because the Governor has turned his back on an inclusive and united America."

Clyde Williams, Mar-Saline Branch President, "the confederate flag divided the Missouri and the nation during the Civil War...now the actions by Governor Blunt is dividing the state of Missouri under the same flag.

Shalia Lindsey, Region IV Youth Director, stated, “there is a real need for every young person to understand the need to be vigilant and involved. There are those individuals and politicians who would seek to validate discriminatory practices and advocate, much like the Dixiecrats of the 1940’s, their adamant opposition to ‘justice and liberty for all’ as well as deny some based on the color of their skin; ‘life, liberty and the pursuit for happiness”.

We are calling on all Missourians to make a visible stand on Sunday by flying the American Flag; call, fax and email Governor Blunt at 573.751-3222 or mogov@mail.mo.gov and Representative McGhee at 573.751-1462 or 816.230-5646 or email: mike.mcghee@house.mo.gov to voice opposition to the flag.

The Mar-Saline Branch of the NAACP chartered in 1939, is the oldest, boldest, baddest, most cussed and discussed civil rights organization in the city and county, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are frontline advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.