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PRESS ADVISORY

NAACP condemns Georgia House Resolution 644

March 23, 2017 (Atlanta, GA) – The Atlanta Branch of the NAACP joins the Georgia NAACP State Conference President Francys Johnson in condemning the continued campaign to normalize racial oppression and present a perverted version of history. Georgia State Representative Tommy Benton, who in 2016 claimed that the Ku Klux Klan “was not so much a racist thing” returns to falsely claim that Georgia’s participation in the Confederate States of America and the resulting Civil War, had nothing to do with maintaining and expanding African slavery. Benton and fellow Republicans Bill Werkheiser, Alan Powell, Steve Tarvin and Jesse Petrea have sponsored a resolution that claims that the Civil War was “a four-year struggle for states’ rights, individual freedom, and local government control.” Georgia’s Declaration of Succession clearly communicates the presumption of white supremacy and African inferiority as the impetus to abandon the United States. That this resolution misstates the historical facts is an admission that it is designed to support the evil premise of the 4-year, most costly conflict this nation has endured.

President Richard Rose of the Atlanta Branch says that “America should repudiate white supremacy and racial oppression in all forms and formats. Celebration of the Confederacy is just another manifestation of state-sponsored terrorism by white Christian men. The carvings at Stone Mountain Park represent the largest shrine to white supremacy in the history of the world. Those depicted on the side of the mountain were traitors to America, having led a failed insurrection against this country. It is time for America to live up to this creed that all men are created equal. America is the only country in the world that celebrates a failed insurrection against itself.”

The Atlanta Branch calls on all men and women of faith and humanity to reject the hate of racism. America cannot achieve peace from within without a reconciliation. Publicly funded and promoted celebrations of bigotry should not be a part of American life.

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