

credits

Minority Reporter
506 W. Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14608
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 26352
Rochester, NY 14626
585-301-4199 ph.
1-888-792-9303 Toll-free
1-888-796-6292 fx.
E-mail: info@minorityreporter.net
www.minorityreporter.net

Publisher

Dave McCleary
davemc@minorityreporter.net

Business Manager

Pauline McCleary
pmccleary@minorityreporter.net

Art Director

Joyce Santana

Advertising

Dave McCleary
Willie Williams, Marlo Blocker
advertising@minorityreporter.net

Staff Photographer

Temple Boggs
Joyce Santana

Distribution

Kandia Breedlove

Reporters

Rajesh Barnabas
Mike Costanza
JD Jackson
Rick Kern
Kevin R. Scott
Jon David
Jonathan Parris

Columnists

Gloria Winston Al-Sarag
Rev. Michael Vaughn
Howard Eagle

Advisors

Lydia Boddie-Rice
Rev. Roger Breedlove
Joseph Brown
Andrew Evans
Regina Maye
Shlonda N. Nash
Michael Peace

Minority Reporter, Inc. is a family of publications and other media formats committed to fostering self awareness, building community and empowering people of color to reach their greatest potential. Further, Minority Reporter, Inc. seeks to present a balanced view of relevant issues, utilizing its resources to build bridges among diverse populations; taking them from information to understanding.

Minority Reporter reserves the right to edit or reject content submitted.

The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Minority Reporter does not assume responsibility concerning advertisers, their positions, practices, services or products; nor does the publication of advertisements constitute or imply endorsement.

Deadline for all copy is Tuesday at noon.

Minority Reporter invites news and story suggestions from readers.

Call 585-301-4199 or email
info@minorityreporter.net.

National News

U.S. Congress Apologizes for Slavery

The U.S. Senate on Thursday apologized for slavery, making it the second body in Congress to approve such a measure. The vote comes a year after the U.S. House of Representatives apologized for slavery.

The unanimous vote by the upper chamber of Congress also came one day before many African Americans commemorate Juneteenth, the day when word finally reached slaves in Galveston, Texas that the Civil War and slavery had ended.

The resolution says that "the legacy of African-Americans is interwoven with the very fabric of the democracy and freedom of the United States" but recalls that "millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the 13 American colonies from 1619 through 1865."

The resolution admits that Africans were "forced into slavery" where they were "brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage." And it acknowledges that many enslaved families were "torn apart after family members were sold separately." Although the resolution decries the "visceral racism against people of African descent" that became "enmeshed in the social fabric of the United States," the nonbinding measure does not authorize reparations for descendants of African American slaves.

"Nothing in this resolution authorizes or supports any claim against the United States or serves as a settlement of any claim against the United States," the resolution states. The failure to permit reparations is all



the more stunning considering the resolution specifically admits that descendants of African American slaves "saw the fleeting political, social, and economic gains they made during Reconstruction eviscerated by virulent racism, lynchings, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws that imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life."

The Senate resolution even acknowledges that these Jim Crow laws "officially existed until the 1960s—a century after the official end of slavery in the United States." But still no reparations for those who suffered through Jim Crow until the 1960s. Nor does the resolution provide compensation for those African Americans who "continue to suffer from the consequences of slavery and Jim Crow laws—long after both systems were formally abolished." Slavery was abolished in the U.S. with the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865. During the Civil War, President Lincoln had

signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery in states that were in rebellion against the federal government, but that order had little immediate effect on the vast majority of slaves, who were held in Confederate states at war with the U.S.

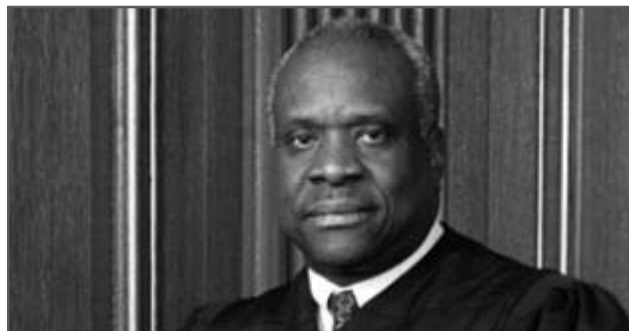
This is not the first time the federal government has stepped into the issue of slavery. In 2003, President George W. Bush made a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port, where he described slavery as "one of the greatest

crimes of history." The bill also notes that President Bill Clinton addressed "the deep-seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African-Americans that began with slavery, when he initiated a national dialogue about race."

"An apology for centuries of brutal dehumanization and injustices cannot erase the past, but confession of the wrongs committed and a formal apology to African-Americans will help bind the wounds of the Nation that are rooted in slavery and can speed racial healing and reconciliation and help the people of the United States understand the past and honor the history of all people of the United States," the resolution states.

Although the House passed a similar resolution apologizing for slavery in 2008, the new version of the Senate resolution will reportedly be sent to the House for its approval as well. Six states (Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey and North Carolina) have already apologized for slavery.

Clarence Thomas casts lone vote against Voting Rights Act



In an 8-1 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Justice Clarence Thomas cast the lone vote against a key provision of the Voting Rights Act on Monday. The Court, in Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder declined to overturn the 1965 Voting Rights Act that has often been challenged by conservative critics as unnecessary. Instead it avoided the "difficult" question about the constitutionality of the law. But the Court did allow a tiny Texas municipality to be exempted from a requirement to provide advance notice before making changes to its election

procedures. In his dissent, Thomas seemed to argue that the Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary because the explicit racial segregation of the Jim Crow era is gone.

"The violence, intimidation and subterfuge that led Congress to pass Section 5 and this court to uphold it no longer remains," Thomas wrote. He admitted that in 1965, "Congress had every reason to conclude that States with a history of disenfranchising voters based on race would continue to do all they could to evade the constitutional ban on voting discrimination." But,

Thomas added, "The extensive pattern of discrimination that led the Court to previously uphold Section 5 . . . no longer exists...And the days of 'grandfather clauses, property qualifications, 'good character' tests, and the requirement that registrants 'understand' or 'interpret' certain matter,' are gone."

The remaining eight members of the court avoided the constitutional issue. "Whether conditions continue to justify such legislation is a difficult constitutional question we do not answer today," Chief Justice Roberts wrote for the Court.