



News Release

President J. David Reeves and Blacks In Government® honor Black History month.

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Washington, DC – J. David Reeves, National President of Blacks In Government, prepares to celebrate Black History Month by honoring the past, understanding the present and preparing for the future.

“Black History Month was created to honor the many valuable contributions to society and culture made by African Americans. These achievements span virtually every aspect of our day-to-day life. There is a legacy of black talent ranging from literature, music and the arts to science and technology, and that legacy grows every day,” Reeves said.

During the month of February the nation recognizes the achievements of African Americans, such as the historic election of Barack Obama as president of the United States and the legacy of the Civil Rights movement. Reeves encourages his members “to honor these achievements by continuing to persevere in the face of adversity as the struggles and challenges for minorities have not gone away. President Obama recently stated that education is the beginning of opportunity and BIG is committed to assisting its members in taking advantage of those opportunities.”

The Darlene H. Young Leadership Academy (YLA) is a national program designed to foster excellence in leadership and to develop professional and personal leadership skills. Each year a group of BIG members are chosen to participate in this year-long, highly interactive training program. YLA provides BIG members with the training and education that better equips them to take on leadership roles within BIG as well as within their respective agencies and organizations.

BIG will also hold its 31st Annual National Training Conference (NTC) in Baltimore, Maryland from August 24 to 28, 2009, providing attendees with a comprehensive training program that focuses on professional development, skills enhancement and lifelong learning. Reeves described the NTC as “a nationwide response to train and develop individuals into subject matter experts, so that they will be able to perform the critical tasks of providing services to the general public.”

“Black history is part of BIG’s history,” said Reeves, the organization’s 12th national president. “The civil rights movement, epitomized by the unwavering spirit and fervor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was one that sought equality for all races as so eloquently delivered in his ‘I have a dream’ speech. Blacks In Government (BIG) has played a key role in helping to fulfill that dream by advocating on behalf of the 3.5 million African Americans employed in federal, state and local governments. BIG cultivates a desire to succeed, stimulates personal development and professionalism, and continuously focuses on achieving equality of opportunity.”

Reeves sees Black History Month as a time to honor and celebrate African American culture and as an opportunity to recognize the vast diversity that exists in America. “As we join with citizens across the country to celebrate Black History Month, African Americans, as well as all races and ethnicities, should take pride in their backgrounds and learn more about their heritage.”

For additional information on Blacks in Government, please contact the BIG National Headquarters at (202) 667-3280 or visit www.bignet.org.