Description

The Blacks In Government (BIG) National Prestige Awards Program is designed to recognize those Members, Chapters, and Regions whose deeds and contributions have been so exemplary or significant in the furtherance of the organizations goals and objectives that they deserve special honor and praise. Similarly, the awards program will recognize individuals and organizations outside of BIG for their outstanding accomplishments.

The National Prestige Awards are given on an annual basis, upon approval of the National Board of Directors. The award is based on deeds and contributions achieved during the previous calendar year (January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022). Awards will be presented during the Closing Plenary during the National Training Institute.

Award Categories

**Meritorious Service Award**

This honorary award recognizes a BIG Member for exemplary/outstanding contributions in the furtherance of BIG’s goals and objectives.

**Distinguished Service Award**

This honorary award recognizes a BIG Chapter or Region for exemplary/outstanding contributions in the furtherance of BIG’s goals and objectives.

**Special Achievement Award**

This honorary award recognizes an individual or organization outside of BIG whose efforts and accomplishments have advanced African Americans progress in vital areas such as employment, education, civil rights, community and economic development and/or citizen participation.
For the Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award, the Chapter, Region and Member must be in good financial standing with the National Organization.

**Meritorious Service Award**
Selection for this award is based upon demonstrated achievements by a Blacks In Government (BIG) Member in one or more of the following endeavors during the 2022 calendar year:

A. Outstanding results in membership recruitment and retention activities.
B. Exceptional accomplishments in the development, implementation and promotion of BIG National, Regional, and local Chapter programs.
C. Exemplary participation with tangible results in working with National, Regional and local organizations whose goals are congruent with the mission and goals of BIG.
D. Significant and innovative ideas, which promote the goals and objectives of BIG and African American issues and concerns.

**Distinguished Service Award**
Selection for this award is based upon demonstrated achievements by a Chapter or Region in one or more of the following endeavors during the 2022 calendar year:

A. Outstanding results in membership recruitment and retention activities.
B. Exceptional accomplishments in the development, implementation and promotion of BIG National, Regional and local programs.
C. Exemplary participation with tangible results in working with National, Regional and local organizations whose goals are congruent with the mission and goals of BIG.
D. Significant and innovative ideas, which promote the goals and objectives of BIG and African American issues and concerns.

For the Special Achievement Award, the Chapter and Region must be in good financial standing with the National Organization.

**Special Achievement Award**
Selection for this award is based upon demonstrated achievements by an individual or organization outside of BIG in one or more of the following endeavors during the 2022 calendar year:

A. Outstanding accomplishment in the promotion and support of BIG National, Regional and/or Chapter programs.
B. Notable support and participation in activities or organizations that are congruent with the goals and objectives of BIG.
C. Exemplary efforts and accomplishments that advanced African American progress in such areas as employment, education housing and health services, and economic development.
BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
2023 National Prestige Awards Program Nomination Procedures

1. Nominations must be submitted, signed and dated by the Chapter President or Regional Council President as appropriate, and one Regional Director.

2. Nominations must be submitted on the appropriate Prestige Awards Nomination and Justification Forms containing no more than two type written pages.

   Please note, there are two (2) justification forms:
   a) Use Justification Form Attachment 5 for the Meritorious Service or Distinguished Service Award; and
   b) Use Justification Form Attachment 6 for the Special Achievement Award.

3. Nomination packages must be submitted by email, no later than May 21, 2023. Late submittals will not be accepted. Please note, we are not accepting faxed or postal nominations at the National Office.

   EMAIL: BIGAwards@bignet.org

   Helpful Tips:
   1. Include a brief biographical sketch of the nominee.
   2. Address each criterion for the category.
   3. Cite specific examples, including dates, activities and results that illustrate the praise-worthy efforts of the nominee.
BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
2023 National Prestige Awards Program Nomination Form
(All five sections of this form must be completed)

1. Nominating Organization:
   a. Chapter or Region & No.:
   b. Complete address:
      ___________________________________________________________
      Zip Code: ________________________________________________
   c. Contact Information:
      ___________________________________________________________
      Daytime Phone: (____) - __________________________
      Evening Phone: (____) - __________________________
      E-Mail Address: ________________________________________

2. Award Category (Check only one):
   □ Meritorious Service Award (Member Only)
   □ Distinguished Service Award (Chapter or Region Only)
   □ Special Achievement Award (Non-Member/Organization Only)

3. Date(s) of Contribution:
   ___________________________________________________________

4. Award Nominee Information (Complete only one)
   a. Member Name: ___________________________________________
   b. Chapter Name/Number: _________________________________
   c. Region/Number: _______________________________________
   d. Non-Member/Org Only: _________________________________
   e. Complete Address: _____________________________________
      Zip Code: ___________________________________________
   f. E-mail address: ________________________________________
   g. Daytime Phone: (____) - __________________________
   h. Evening Phone: (____) - __________________________

5. Required Signatures:
   a. Chapter/Regional Council President Name:
      _______________________________________________________
      Signature/Date Signed: _________________________________
      Date: _______________________________________________
   b. Regional Director Name: ________________________________
      Signature/Date Signed: _________________________________
      Date: _______________________________________________

Attachment 4
JUSTIFICATION FORM FOR MERITORIOUS OR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Attach justification and brief biographical sketch (not to exceed two (2), Times New Roman 12-point font size typed pages). In your submission, please respond to each award criteria in paragraphs 1 through 5 below.

Nominating Organization:
Chapter or Region: ________________________________

Name of
Individual or
Organization: ________________________________

Award Category (Check One Only):
☐ Meritorious Service Award (Member Only)
☐ Distinguished Service Award (Chapter or Region Only)

1. Member/Chapter/Region must be in good financial standing with the National Organization.

2. Outstanding results in membership recruitment and retention activities.

3. Exceptional accomplishments in the development, implementation and promotion of BIG National, Regional and local programs.

4. Exemplary participation with tangible results in working with National, Regional and local organizations whose goals are congruent with the mission and goals of BIG.

5. Significant and innovative ideas, which promote the goals and objectives of BIG and African American issues and concerns.
BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT
2023 National Prestige Awards Program

JUSTIFICATION FORM FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Attach justification and brief biographical sketch (not to exceed two, Times New Roman 12-point font size typed pages). In your submission, please respond to each award criteria in paragraphs 1 through 3 below.

Nominating Organization:

Chapter or Region: __________________________________________________________

Name of Individual or Organization: ____________________________________________

Award Category

☐ Special Achievement Award (Non-Member Only)

1. Outstanding accomplishment in the promotion and support of BIG National, Regional and/or Chapter programs.

2. Notable support and participation in activities or organizations whose goals are congruent with the goals and objectives of BIG.

3. Exemplary efforts and accomplishments that advanced African American progress in such areas as employment, education, housing and health services, and economic development.