

**RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE NAACP  
AND COMMENDING ITS SONOMA COUNTY CHAPTER**

**WHEREAS**, in February 2009, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will celebrate a 100 year journey as the nation's oldest, largest and most effective civil rights advocacy organization - a legacy that has forever changed the landscape of American history, and specifically a spotlight on the protection of Civil Rights throughout Sonoma County for the past 56 years; and

**WHEREAS**, for one hundred years, the collective courage of people of all races, nationalities and faiths united on one premise - That all men and women are created equal. The NAACP's efforts have led to new initiatives and programs aimed at eliminating disparities in education, economic development, healthcare, and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP's most courageous moments have involved ordinary men and women, from school children to Presidents, who championed justice; Gilbert Gray (President, 1959-1962) and the Santa Rosa membership endorsed a Step-Up Program, calling for a diversification in Jobs, Housing and Education; and

**WHEREAS**, from the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and Leaders who forged this great organization and fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African Americans would be heard; and

**WHEREAS**, within Sonoma County the efforts of O. Platt Williams (founding President in 1953) helped to encourage and monitor home buying practices for African Americans and brought Melva Joy Beals Patillo, one of the "Little Rock Nine" black students to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957, to Santa Rosa for personal safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the noteworthy community efforts of Eddie Mae Sloan (Warrior-Shero) who established SCPEO projects for women, children and other disadvantaged groups (among these Head Start, Council on Aging, Alianza Del Pueblo, Ya-Ka-Ama Indian Education Center, Commission on the Status of Women, Roseland Children's Health Center); and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Chapter of the NAACP works within the mission of its charter to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize, acknowledge and extend best wishes for the NAACP's Centennial Celebration, and commend the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County Chapter's NAACP membership for 56 years of courage and commitment to voter empowerment, political awareness and the fulfillment of 'all peoples' freedom, justice and equality in Sonoma County.