



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DETROIT BRANCH NAACP ANNOUNCES THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR 63RD ANNUAL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FUND DINNER

DETROIT – Good Afternoon. Once again, we have arrived at the time of the year in which we move towards a historical moment in the city of Detroit known as the Detroit Branch NAACP Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner. No other city in the country has consistently come close to assembling such a unique and wide-spread diversity of individuals from every walk of life each year. This event, now celebrating 63 years, has brought together grassroots, labor, faith-based, political, business, every ethnic group, young, old, and in-between, from the four corners of our nation. It is not just a dinner. It is an iconic assembly of people who believe in civil and human rights, dignity and respect, and upward mobility for those often overlooked. In the city of Detroit, it is in fact the place to be.

This call to action is scheduled for Sunday, May 6th at 5 PM, at the Cobo Convention Center. Speakers in the past have included presidents, secretaries of state, governors, historians, labor leaders, civil rights icons, and those who often shake the social foundations of our very society. As the history books are written, the city of Detroit and the NAACP Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner will continue to serve as a model for the nation. It is an event to be achieved by those who believe in celebrating diversity, and a marker to be reached by those who believe in justice.

This year, we are tremendously excited as we will present special awards for Freedom and Justice, Great Expectations for our youth, the James Weldon Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award for one whose life exemplifies progress and development for all people, and of course our keynote speaker. This afternoon we wish to announce our keynote speaker.

This individual has burst on the national scene as a voice for freedom, justice and democracy. He has been educated in universities, both in our nation and abroad. He has worked at the grassroots level and has served in a variety of political offices. Some have suggested he represents the new and most progressive part of political leadership regarding our nations future.

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63rd Speaker Announcement

This individual has stood firmly for the principles within his own party and has been unafraid to reach across the aisle to build bridges as opposed to erecting walls with those who differ. He is very clear about who he is and what his role in American government should be. As an example, when asked by some concerning his desire for higher office, he stated very directly, *"Life is about purpose, not position."*

The NAACP is indeed about purpose. Our purpose, as we have identified in our theme is

WE CAN'T REST NOW, THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH!

This individual is an example of one who does not rest, who has lived the life of those whom he represents. He has been a champion for workers' rights and income equality, an advocate for fair and significant immigration policies. He is a unique voice in the call for justice in special hearings regarding presidential nominees to the executive branch of government, a stalwart for fair and equitable treatment in the criminal justice system, and a voice in the area of marriage equality. Further, he has been an uncompromising voice in making the public safer by getting illegal guns off the streets and speaking truth to power to the National Rifle Association. This individual served as a member of the city council, state senate and mayor of one of the largest urban communities in our nation. Currently, he is the first African American senator from the state of New Jersey. He is also the first African American to be elected to the U.S. Senate since the election of Barack Obama. This individual is none other than the senator from the great state of New Jersey, the Honorable Cory Anthony Booker.

This will again be a historic event second to none. We invite every person who believes in freedom and justice to join with us in this grand celebration on Sunday, May 6th.

FOR WE CAN'T REST NOW, THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH!

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