Honorable Dr. Doris Sartor, BIG National President Installation Speech

Thank you for those warm sentiments and Good Evening to my BIG family, ...my Real family, ...all of our Corporate Sponsors and Partners, the Honorable individuals on the Dais, and of course, all of our Distinguished guests. First and foremost, I want to thank God for allowing our paths to cross today. It is His hedge of protection, that has brought us together for such a momentous occasion. And we GIVE honor, to whom honor is due. And, I thank each of you for joining us. I really believe that everything we do and everyone we meet are put in our path for a purpose.....for a reason...so again, thank you for your presence here tonight. It is an honor to stand before you as the 14th National President of Blacks In Government. For this is the day; that we have been given to transcend the ordinary.

It has been said that Installations are defining moments we use to recognize the accomplishments of our PAST and create the foundation for our future possibilities. Well, today is no different. As an organization, we mark our new beginnings, by gathering in solidarity; recommitting ourselves to our mission; and celebrating ALL we have accomplished and everything we have pledged to become. Last year, we BIG celebrated 40 years as an organization. Please, let’s give Blacks In Government a round of applause. Thank you.

Blacks In Government remains committed to its mission of promoting equity, excellence and opportunity and serving as a mechanism for inclusion, growth and advocacy. Our current commander–in-chief was so right when he said, and I quote, “You have to think anyway, so why not think big?” Personally, I like to think the columnist, who printed that quote; just forgot to capitalize the word—BIG.
I am truly humbled by the trust you have placed in me. Even though, I have served as an active productive member of Blacks In Government for more than 28 years, I don’t stand before you-- based on my own resiliency or fortitude. Today, I DON’T stand before you ALONE. Standing beside me, just a little to my left, I have the Honorable Thomas A. Walton. It was he, who taught me, those important virtues of integrity, patience, and faith during his many years as the Chair of the National Delegates Assembly. Next to Tom, is the Honorable Julius Crouch. As many of you know, he was one of the most influential Chairs of the NBoD and also served as the Chair of the National AE/EEO Committee. He taught me the many ins and outs of assisting others in processing complaints of discrimination. He always said, “If it is not in writing, it didn’t happen.” Then, standing beside him, YES you are right; there’s Mr. Howard Ervin, National Chair, Voter Plan of Action—he represents the importance of making sure OUR voices are heard... and heard loudly and often. Finally, standing there-- representing ALL THAT BIG is; was; and will ever be; is the Honorable Ms. Ruby Fields, one of the Founders of BIG. And, what did she teach me? SHE taught me Two of the hardest things to learn...sacrifice and commitment. Yes, They are All still here--still motivating, inspiring, encouraging, and challenging; not just me; but All of us to continue to be that constant voice for equity, excellence, and opportunity.

When recently interviewed by Federal News Radio, I was asked-- What are my top 4 priorities for Blacks In Government? and What Overall Message are You Sending to Your Members this Year?

I briefly shared the following:

Priority #1. Implement our Organization’s Strategic Plan. BIG’s plan focuses on four major areas: 1) Communications Flow; 2) Financial Accountability; 3) Advocacy and 4) Membership. With every level of BIG (chapter, regional, and national) using our forward thinking plan and
being accountable for our results, We will have clearer alignment with our organization’s vision-- to be a *Member Focused, word class enterprise, recognized for Excellence*.

**Priority #2. Advocate on Equal Opportunity Issues.** Partner with OPM, EEOC, DoD, other federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to strategically provide opportunities for communication, collaboration, and coordination.

**Priority #3. Define BIG as a World Class Training Organization.** Enhance our National Training Institute (NTI). Offer more courses that are of benefit to the federal, state, and local governments and that meet the standards for professional certification. I’m pleased to announce we’ve already partnered with EEOC, Office of Federal Operations; and OPM in the Office of Combined Federal Campaign to support our NTI. We have also signed our agreement to continue our *Project Management Certification Exam Prep Course* during this year’s conference. And Finally,

**Priority #4. Implement Innovative Strategies for Membership Recruitment and Retainment.** Align all levels of BIG around clearer communication; and utilize and enhance social media and BIG publications. Our first *BIG Reporter* of this year is already on our website. Special thanks to Mr. Chris Jones, Ms. Marie Perry, and the Honorable Darlene H. Young for all the hard work to produce this publication. And thanks to the regions and chapters for writing and submitting the many articles and commentaries. Our membership initiative also includes enticing the younger generation to join BIG and to continue to emphasize the importance of networking to achieve career success.
Next, the interviewer asked: **What’s My Overall Message for the Future?**

**It is ... “A message of HOPE.”**  
*WE are resilient* and will continue to work together and be an *INSPIRATION* to others. *BIG knows the power of Hope in the face of uncertainty and in times of insecurity.* Secondly, we will continue the *Legacy of Excellence* established by our Immediate Past National President and National Board of Director the Honorable Darlene H. Young. She demonstrated true endurance and faithfulness to our cause. *She never gave up on us!* I am filled with great expectations for the next two years. Please stand and acknowledge her accomplishments with me (handclap)

**I have much to be Grateful for and Many to Thank.**  
I first acknowledge my FAMILY, especially my **MOTHER** who just recently celebrated her **86th birthday** and although she could not be with me physically today, *I feel her spirit.* **My Family -- Please stand.** These are just a few of my family members who have shaped the person I am today. Their sincere and unshakable belief in God and strong respect for education allowed me to pursue all my dreams. **Thank you. I love you all.**

Next, I’d like to thank the Corporate Sponsors and Partners, the NCEP members, and other Distinguished Guests for coming. My supervisor and colleagues from Maxwell Air Force Base, thank you so much for coming. Would you please stand and be recognized? National Board of Directors, National Executive Committee, and Regional Council Presidents, thank you for your leadership and commitment. My BIG extended family, for more than 24 years you’ve shared my desire and passion to serve others. Thank you.
Now, for two very, very special recognitions.

**Dr. Vera McKethan**, Installation Program Chair, and **ALL volunteers** for this Installation Ceremony and Reception, **this was a lovely well planned event**. I can only image the number of hours you so willingly devoted to ensuring this installation was such a success. Kudos to you and your team! Please stand and, **once again**, be recognized.

Finally, our illustrious Mistress of Ceremony, **Ms. Nanette Hayes**; although our association goes back a number of years, you continuously amaze me with your grace and charm. Thank You.

My final thoughts-- as National President of Blacks In Government, I will embody honesty, generosity, integrity and sacrifice and I will remain steadfast to the mission and purpose of BIG. I will always remember “It’s not about me” BUT about ALL of us WORKING TOGETHER hand-in-hand to make a Better Tomorrow. To quote our new commander in chief, “It is Your voice, your hopes and your dreams that will define our ... destiny.” He is right in that one thing, it is YOU who makes us BIG!!

**Thank you and God Bless.**