

MEDIA  **RELEASE**

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**National President's Thoughts on Coretta Scott King
Pioneer for the Rights of All: BIG Goals**

As you know, we have lost a premier icon of the Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. Coretta Scott King was a leader in her own right. Even after the death of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. she continued the struggle for equality on numerous levels. She led the effort to develop the King Center in Atlanta and she championed the effort to establish the national King Holiday. She understood that the responsibility to fulfill the Dream belonged to her and to us, as well as to those who follow us. Mrs. King used her gifts to make things happen on the Federal, State and local levels. In addition, she understood the importance and influence of the King name, and she upheld the high standards of unity, non-violent protest, and integrity that Dr. King bequeathed to her.

I had an opportunity to meet and talk with Mrs. King on January 21, 2005, while attending the 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Training Seminar in Denver, Co. Ms. King gave me a book by Dr. King called "Strength to Love". Of the things she said to me, the words that I remember the most and have carried into my presidency were, "Always remember the people that you serve and GOD will continue to bless you."

In our remembrance of her, let us be reminded that her struggle is still **our** struggle. There are problems yet to solve with our society. As Mrs. King persevered, Blacks In Government also will continue to point out injustice in our community, and to right the wrongs that still pervade this nation and the world.

Let us remember the King family in our prayers. Although this is a time of sorrow and grief for our Nation, we celebrated her life today in Lithonia, GA. Let us use this time as a galvanizing force, just as Coretta Scott King did so many years ago after the death of her husband. There is still work to do. Let us continue to promote the common goals of the struggle and of this organization: Equality, Excellence and Opportunity.

BIG is a non-profit 501C (3) public service employee advocacy, training and professional development organization. BIG's membership and National Training Conference attendees reach as far as Japan, England, Germany, Korea, Italy, as well as the contiguous continental United States inclusive of Alaska and Hawaii. BIG has provided a non-partisan platform on major issues of local, regional and national significance that have affected blacks in government since 1975.

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

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