



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

New York Office • 1095 Avenue of the Americas, Ste. 24D, New York, NY 10036 • 212.626.6400

BENJAMIN TODD JEALOUS
President & Chief Executive Officer

ROSLYN M. BROCK
Chairman, Board of Directors

July 20, 2011

Mrs. Fayth Hill Washington
Founder and Chief Executive
Hill Foundation, Inc.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Washington:

After so many years, to hear from you was a very special pleasure. Especially so, recalling that we first met when you were attending elementary school in Hoxie, Arkansas. The News that the Hoxie School Board announced its decision to voluntarily desegregate the local schools reverberated around the Nation in banner newspaper headlines.

In that 1955 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that public schools in the United States could no longer be segregated as a result of the legal case brought before it by the NAACP. In view of this, our NAACP leaders Roy Wilkins and Thurgood Marshall, concluded that support and encouragement should be extended to the affected families. Thus, as an NAACP staff member, I was sent to Hoxie for this purpose.

It was then, in 1955, that I met you, your parents, the other parents and their children. It was indeed, an historic time with the parents and students dedicated and determined to go to school, study and learn as much as they could. Despite great difficulty, this was accomplished.

I am delighted to learn that there are plans to erect a monument on the grounds of the State Capitol in Little Rock and deservedly so, since Hoxie was the very first community in Arkansas to successfully desegregate its schools. You stand today a living exemplar of this achievement.

I am honored by your invitation to attend the 56th Commemoration of the 1955 Hoxie School Desegregation in recognition of the Hoxie 21 Students, Families and Community. It is with very deep regret that I cannot do so on July 23, 2011. On this same date, I will be attending the 102nd NAACP Convention in Los Angeles, California. Please convey my congratulations and best of all good wishes on the occasion of this richly deserved commemorative tribute to the students, the families and the community of Hoxie.

Sincerely,

Mildred Bond Roxborough
NAACP Consultant