



The Honorable Corrine Brown
U.S. Representative
3rd District of Florida

Not Brand or Size, But By Footprint

Thursday, September 16, 2010

4:00 - 5:50pm

Washington, DC Convention Center
Rm. 144A

Annual Legislative Conference

September 15-18, 2010

Celebrating the Vision
Continuing the Journey
Advancing the Mission



Addie L. Richburg
Issues Forum Moderator
National Alliance of Faith and Justice



Susan L. Taylor
Founder and CEO
National CARES Mentoring Movement



Cheryl T. Grills, Ph.D.
President-Elect
Association of Black Psychologists, Inc.



Elder Carlvern Dunn
Klamsha
Youth Empowerment Organization

Featuring updates
National Park Service Underground Railroad
Network to Freedom



Brenda Jackson
Opening music
International classic opera and
gospel artist





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2010 CBCF Theme: "Celebrating the Vision, Continuing the Journey, Advancing the Mission."

Passage along the Underground Railroad was a terrible and difficult journey. Some stowed away on boats, trains, or wagons. But the majority of the enslaved escaped by foot, traveling largely at night across rivers, hiking through mountains, through swamps, through rocky and thorny ground without benefit of protective footwear. They ran often without protection against the cuts, abrasions, and bruises from objects on the ground; no protection from frostbite or the parasites, no knowledge of or concern for brands and styles. They worked hard to leave no footprints behind for slavecatchers or dogs to find. Instead, they left unmistakable footprints for us to follow to get beyond slavery, to fight against inequities, to challenge stereotypes and profiles, to stand up to and on the neck of Jim Crow, and to use in sizing the shoes for the feet of those who would continue the journey to freedom.

We are who we are, not because of the size of our feet; nor can our capacity be determined by the design, cost, or brand of shoe we wear. We have pursued our freedom, we stand, and we move forward in shoes passed down from generation to generation, broken in for our benefit. We follow the footprints left by fathers, by mothers, and others who walked and ran ahead and beside us as courageous youth, bold leaders, heads of households, conductors, weary sojourners, and mentors. Through this session, we celebrate their vision for freedom. We continue their journey. We advance the mission.

Panel Participants

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| Addie L. Richburg, Moderator | President, National Alliance of Faith and Justice |
| Susan L. Taylor, Speaker | Founder and CEO, National Cares Mentoring Movement |
| Cheryl T. Grills, Ph.D., Speaker | President, Association of Blacks Psychologists, Inc. and Associate Dean, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts |
| Carlvern Dunn, Speaker | Historian, Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization |