

NBCSL PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHADWICK BOSEMAN
Duly proclaimed on December 2, 2021 in Plenary Session
At
NBCSL's 45th Annual Legislative Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

WHEREAS, Chadwick Aaron Boseman, was born on November 29, 1976, in Anderson, South Carolina to supportive, dedicated parents Leroy Boseman and Carolyn Boseman, who encouraged Mr. Boseman to pursue his goals;

WHEREAS, Chadwick Boseman was an accomplished writer, writing and producing his first play in high school, *Crossroads*, in response to the death of a classmate, a young man on his high school basketball team who was tragically shot and killed;

WHEREAS, although Mr. Boseman was an accomplished scholar and athlete in High School and was recruited to play sports in college, he chose to pursue higher education in the arts in the illustrious and historic Historically Black University, Howard University where he graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree;

WHEREAS, while Mr. Boseman matriculated at Howard University, he honed his academic pursuits and his artistic craft under the tutelage of the renowned actress Phylicia Rashad;

WHEREAS, Mr. Boseman further pursued his studies in the British American Drama Academy in London, and thereafter, he began his career as an accomplished actor; having early success as a stage actor, writer and director before joining television shows such as *Lincoln Heights*, and performed in a number of stage productions in New York Theater;

WHEREAS, Mr. Boseman made a decision to forego movies and television shows where African Americans were depicted in negative, stereotypical roles, but instead found success in the field of acting portraying many of America's African-American history makers including the first African-American Supreme Court Justice and renowned NAACP attorney, Justice Thurgood Marshall in the film *Marshall*, talented and widely acclaimed Godfather of Soul, singer James Brown in the film *Get on Up*, and baseball legend Jackie Robinson, in the film *42*, among other roles;

WHEREAS, in 2018, Boseman starred in the renowned Black Panther film as King T'Challa of the Wakanda people, the first film where a Black superhero was the main character in the Marvel Cinematic Universe ~~had a starring role~~, wherein a legacy of hope and achievement in the African Diaspora was highlighted;

WHEREAS, the film *Black Panther*, not only shattered box office records, raking in an estimated \$218 million domestically and 1.344 billion worldwide, it went on to earn an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture and became an integral part of the African diaspora film history; WHEREAS, at the 50th Annual NAACP Image Awards, Mr. Boseman received the 'Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture' award for *Black Panther*;

WHEREAS, as an actor and role model, Mr. Boseman helped to reverse generations of silver-screen stereotypes with an authenticity and dedication to the Black culture, fostering culture and pride to an entire community of people;

WHEREAS, Mr. Boseman was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer in 2016, and battled with it these last 4 years as it progressed to stage IV, he persevered through it all, countless surgeries, and chemotherapy, and brought us many of the films that continue to inspire and challenge us to live a life of greatness and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boseman's life shall serve as an inspiration to all of us, that even when challenges have arrived at your door, keep pushing forward and living to your fullest potential, with humility and grace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) pauses to acknowledge, appreciate, and celebrate the life, legacy, and illustrious contributions of Mr. Chadwick Aaron Boseman, a real-life superhero, for his immeasurable legacy, telling the necessary stories, serving his community, and embodying his purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NBCSL thanks Mr. Boseman for allowing all of us to dream and envision a brighter future.

Introduced by: Senator Brenda Gilmore (TN), NBCSL President, Representative Billy Mitchell (GA) President-Elect, Representative Laura Hall (AL) Vice President, Representative Harold Love (TN), Secretary, Representative Vivian Flowers (AR), Treasurer, Representative Cherrish Pryor (IN), Financial Secretary, Senator Raumesh Akbari (TN), Parliamentarian, Senator Gerald Neal (KY), and Chaplain, Senator Pat Spearman (NV)