



January 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

*When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. - John Lewis, July 2020*

In 2020, more than 159 million Americans participated in the cornerstone of our democracy by casting their votes in the general election. As such, it is the constitutional duty of our elected officials to respect their oaths and the will of the American people by ensuring the successful transition of power. The insurrection in Washington, D.C. yesterday defied this.

The U.S. Capitol has been breached only twice since its construction. The first time was in 1814, during the War of 1812, when British troops set the building on fire. The second was yesterday, January 6, 2021, when a group of armed terrorists stormed the Capitol. They breached the building to undermine American democracy, perpetuate badges of slavery and terror, and demand that a single leader be permitted to remain in power against the will of more than 81 million voters.

Yesterday, white supremacists brought [a noose](#) and dozens of [confederate flags](#) to the epicenter of democracy in our country. These badges represent a legacy of terror, dehumanization, and trauma for the Black community, and have been so since the Civil War.

The treatment by police of the terrorists who attacked the Capitol stands in direct contrast to the [treatment](#) faced by protestors only months earlier while demanding accountability for pervasive police violence and brutality against the Black community. Violence which has taken the lives of people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Jacob Blake, to name only a few.

While yesterday's events will become yet another scar on the nation's history, we urge all who read this to instead reflect on this historic election of Georgia's first Black U.S. Senator. A graduate of Morehouse College, Reverend Raphael Warnock is not only Georgia's first Black Senator, but also the second Black Senator from the South since Reconstruction, the period which immediately followed the Civil War.

In the spirit of Reconstruction, we encourage you all to remember the words of the late Congressman John Lewis in his [final moments](#), "**together, we can redeem the soul of our nation.**" With a concerted effort to defend the Constitution and our rights within it, we can dismantle the institutions that oppress our communities, enable voter suppression, spread misinformation, and allow white supremacy to remain unchecked.

NBLSA renews its commitment to advocate, educate, and empower, and invite you to do the same.

In NBLSA Service,

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