



THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SOCIETY

# CHARACTER **POWER**<sup>SM</sup>

*CULTIVATING CHARACTER, EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY*

The Booker T Washington Society e-Newsletter

October 2008

**NOTE:** *As chickens come home to roost in our economy, millions of us will be forced to bear a burden caused by others. You can blame 'bad policy decisions' and 'lack of controlling legal authority,' but the root cause lies in the character - or lack thereof - of the leading 'players.'* **Shame on them.**

## **A Recognition Long Overdue...**

For decades, many who knew better treated the achievements and character of a great historical figure, Booker T. Washington with disdain. Yet his legacy, the lessons he taught, and their continuing relevance for all Americans live on.

It is high time to recognize and appreciate Booker T. Washington as a great American - without hyphenation as "African-" or limitation as "black."

The willful distorters of his historical record must share responsibility for the consequences - albeit unintended - that are so painfully evident throughout vast segments of our youth culture today. Booker T's inspiring, uplifting, character-building message was 'dissed, while feeding hundreds of thousands of our youths the angry, dispiriting "lessons" of victimhood and alienation.

For many of today's young people, self-respecting pride in being black has morphed into self-defeating resentment against 'acting white.' This is insanity.

We commit ourselves to join those outspoken souls who came before us to say, "Enough." Please join us. Help preserve and promote the legacy of Booker T. Washington, especially among the youths of our country. Help us fulfill our responsibility to develop students and leaders of good character and integrity.

Sincerely,

Ronald Court & Reginald Jones

**Co-Founders, Booker T. Washington Society**



*Learn more about BTW and the Society's efforts by clicking the links below.*

- [Introducing... A Great American](#)
- [In His Own Words... " On Democracy and Education"](#)
- [Let's Get it Right Restoring the Truth](#)
- [Did You Know... The Origin of 'Lift Ev'ry Voice'](#)
- [Commentary Here We Go Again](#) by Reggie Jones
- [Commentary Sticks & Stones](#) by Ron Court
- [Upcoming Speaking Engagement October 14, 2008](#)

President Ronald Court will speak at the [Lincoln Institute's](#) October Breakfast Forum, hosted by Mr. Jay Parker at the University Club in Washington D.C.

For more information, please [click here](#).

**Introducing...**

**A Great American** He rose *Up From Slavery* to inspire millions as a great educator, statesman, philosopher and orator. He understood that without character, education and opportunity don't count for much ... [Read More...](#)



### In His Own Words... by Booker T. Washington

**"On Democracy and Education"** - speech delivered September 30, 1896

(The Institute of Arts & Sciences, Brooklyn, NY)

"It is said that the strongest chain is no stronger than its weakest link. In the Southern part of our country there are twenty-two millions of your brethren who are bound to you by ties which you cannot tear asunder if you would. The most intelligent man in your community has his intelligence darkened by the ignorance ... [Read More...](#)

### Let's Get It Right

Some folks still cling to a belief (if they know anything of him) that Booker T. Washington "sold-out" to segregationists and disenfranchisors to obtain money and power from wealthy whites. Not so... [Read More...](#)

### Did You Know...

That "Lift Every Voice & Sing" (a/k/a the *Negro National Anthem*) was written in anticipation of Booker T. Washington's visit to the Jacksonville, FL school, where the author, James Weldon Johnson, was principal? ... [Read More...](#)

### Commentary by Reggie Jones

**Here We Go Again** Rick Warren, pastor of California's Saddleback mega-Church, asked Barak Obama which US Supreme Court Justice was his least favorite. The senator unhesitatingly replied, "Clarence Thomas." It appeared to me as if ... [Read More...](#)

### Commentary by Ron Court

**Sticks & Stones** A lot of people get upset over the "n--" word. Understandable, for it is truly a reprehensible word. In recent years, the notoriety heaped on those who utter that taboo word reminded me of a response taught to me as a child. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words... [Read More...](#)

**BTW**society

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