



Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

Advancing the political agenda of Caribbean Americans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural Caribbean Diaspora Ecumenical Service of Remembrance and Celebration

Washington DC remains abuzz about the deeply moving recently held *Inaugural Caribbean Diaspora Ecumenical Service of Remembrance and Celebration*. This inter-faith service included leaders from the Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths as well as the Iniversal Development of Ras Tafari (IDOR) religious order. The service was held at the legendary Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ on Sunday, June 30th. IDOR led the ceremonial procession both in and out of this service with religious chants which included, “By the rivers of Babylon,” “400 years in a Babylon,” and “The Lion of Judah shall break every chain.”

The event acknowledged the year 1619 (400 years ago) when the first Africans were delivered into bondage in mainland, America and enslaved. The service also celebrated June as Caribbean-American Heritage month. The message delivered by Rev. Joseph Constant of Haitian ancestry, focused on the priceless contributions of our African ancestors to this hemisphere; despite the brutality against us.

Members from the Caribbean communities throughout the Washington DC Metropolitan region as well as many local, regional and congressional persons were in attendance. Presidential candidate and daughter of Jamaican heritage Senator Kamala Harris sent a representative in her place.

Dr. Goulda Downer, Chair of the Caribbean-American Political action Committee (C-PAC) the conveyor of the event, in her remarks about the nature of the occasion quoted The Rt. Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey who said, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree; without roots.”



Dr. Goulda Downer (photo by Stephanie Cox)



Iniversal Development of Ras Tafari (IDOR) (photo by Stephanie Cox)

Founded in 2005, the overarching mission of C-PAC is to be the political voice, and to advance the political agenda of Caribbean-Americans residing in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area (the DMV). To that end, C-PAC will endorse and support candidates for public office in the DMV who articulate policy positions that will strengthen the economic, educational, social, and cultural conditions of individuals of Caribbean heritage residing in the area. C-PAC also seeks to foster greater relationships between the U.S. Federal, State and Local governments and the nations of the Caribbean.

The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

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