

**SALUTE TO BEN HOOKS ON HIS 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**JANUARY 7, 2005**

BEN, DEAR FRIEND, HEARTIEST CONTRATULATIONS ON YOUR 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY – AND ESPECIALLY ON YOUR VITAL LIFETIME LEADERSHIP IN FOSTERING MINORITY MEDIA OWNERSHIP AS A RESPECTED EFFECTIVE FCC COMMISSIONER AND AS A DISTINGUISHED CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AS PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP. IT IS A SPECIAL TREAT FOR ME TO SALUTE A MUCH YOUNGER BELOVED FRIEND ON HIS IMPRESSIVE LIFETIME ACCOMPLISHMENTS – YOU, SEE, BEN, I’M ALMOST 11 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU – I’LL BE 91 THIS APRIL!

AS A FUGITIVE FROM THE ACTUARIAL TABLES, I CAN FULLY APPRECIATE WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT IN LIFE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS SOME SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, JUST REASONABLE FINANCIAL SECURITY, HEALTH AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE RESPECT AND AFFECTION OF FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW WORKERS AS YOU HAVE ACHIEVED.

IT IS A BETTER AMERICA BECAUSE OF BEN HOOKS AND I’M A BETTER MAN FOR KNOWING YOU AS A FELLOW WORKER WITH YOUR INGRATIATING COMMAND PRESENCE AND FOR HAVING YOU AS A BELOVED LONGTIME FRIEND.

I’M TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE YOU TO MY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY DINNER APRIL 21, 2014 AT THE ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB IN ARLINGTON. I’M SALUTING THE SURVIVING CONGRESSIONAL WORLD WAR II HEROES ON THAT DATE INCLUDING SENATE CHAIRMEN TED STEVENS AND DAN INOUE AND

SENIOR HOUSE DEMOCRAT JOHN DINGELL, WHO HAVE ALL ACCEPTED IN  
ADVANCE. OUR FORMER FCC CHAIRMAN, PATRIOT DICK WILEY, WILL EMCEE.

I WANT YOU, AS AN HONORED GUEST, TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR  
WINNING SO MANY CIVIL RIGHTS BATTLES AND AS ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT  
MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION – SO PLEASE DON'T KONK OUT ON  
ME BEFORE MY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY – I NEED YOU ONE MORE TIME. GOD BLESS  
YOU, BEN – BUT NOT TOO SOON!