

## N.C. bill would speed registration

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recently relocated and did not have time to register to vote.

"It is their constitutional right (to vote)," she said. "If they have lived in a state for 30 days, they should not be discouraged to vote."

The bill would require proper identification, including a state driver's license or photo ID card.

Residents would also have to show proof of residency.

HB 851 is also backed by People of Color, a coalition of groups across North Carolina, including the state branches of the NAACP.

The Rev. William Barber, president of the N.C. NAACP branch, said the bill would encourage voters to get out to the polls.

"The bottom line is that we need to do everything we can to get full participation in this democracy," he said. "We can spend millions to send troops to other countries to provide them every opportunity to vote, so we should provide no less than that in our own state and country."



Barber

## Last lynching victim launched national museum

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was ever accused, arrested or charged with the murder of Cameron's teenage friends, nor for the beating Cameron suffered.

The near-lynching inspired Cameron to devote his life to fighting racial injustice and discrimination. He helped start three NAACP chapters in Indiana during the 1940s and became the first NAACP president for the organization's Madison County Branch in Anderson, Indiana.

Cameron also served as Indiana's director of civil liberties, investigating civil rights infractions often at the risk of his own life.

It was these constant threats to him and his family that forced Cameron to move them to his birth state of Wisconsin in the early '50s, settling in Milwaukee where he continued to work for civil rights.

During the '70s, Cameron published literally hundreds of articles and booklets detailing civil rights and occurrences of racial injustices.

Cameron chronicled his near lynching in a book titled, "A Time of Terror." Publishers published the book in 1982 after many rejections.

The book—and Cameron's notoriety as the nation's only lynching survivor—caught the attention of the American public, thrusting the author

into the national spotlight where he recounted his experience to presidents, civil rights icons such as Coretta Scott King and media icons like Oprah Winfrey.

In 1988, Cameron founded America's Black Holocaust Museum, now located at 2233 North 4th Street, which documents the racial injustices suffered by people of African descent.

Eighteen years later, the museum is growing in prominence and scope as a nationally-known institution. Currently, the museum is hosting an exhibit titled "Hateful Things: Objects from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia," which will be on display until August 26.

"James Cameron made a significant contribution both to our Milwaukee community and to this country in his vision of a museum designed to reflect our holocaust here in North America," said Taki Raton, principal and founder of Blyden Delany Academy.

"We owe it not only to our ancestors but to our children and generations to come to ensure, through America's Black Holocaust Museum, that his vision and our history is preserved, correctly interpreted, and taught through exhibits, forums, newsletters, lectures, and symposiums specific to this

horrific era."

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett praised the historian's remarkable journey from near lynching to statesman, adding that it "humbles us and inspires us. James Cameron was a truly remarkable man and his life is a testimony to faith and perseverance. It is incumbent upon us all to not allow his determination and mission to fade from our lives."

Governor Jim Doyle said Wisconsin lost "a great man" who spent a lifetime teaching people about compassion and hope.

"There are two things that stand out about James' character: how warm and kind a person he was and how committed he was to the Black Holocaust Museum. Almost every time I would meet him, he would talk to me about a new exhibit or something that was happening there."

"The museum serves the profound need of the nation to never forget these atrocities. James' legacy is to use history to show us the path to humanity and equality."

"He was devoted to something that was important not just to Milwaukee and the state, but to the whole country."

Calling Cameron "a fiercely gentle man," Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton said Cameron will be remembered

for his role—locally and nationally—in advancing the conversation on civil rights and race relations, and that he did so with "relentless dignity and honesty."

"As the only known survivor of a lynching, he embodied a most shameful moment of our nation's history. And James Cameron made it his life's work to frame the horror of hate crimes in our collective memory in an instructive way, in the ever-expanding exhibits of the Black Holocaust Museum and in his writings," she said.

"Now it is up to us. To properly honor his legacy and put memory at the service of the advancement of our society; let us resolve to address head-on our shortcomings in race relations in this state, and determine to improve them everywhere. Let us decide that in Wisconsin, we will have zero tolerance as a community for expressions of hatred based on race, gender, sexual orientation or religion."

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