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## Federal Court Ruling On NC Redistricting Applauded

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Republican NC legislative leaders are petitioning the US Supreme Court to stay an order from a three-judge federal court Monday that ruled the state's congressional districts unconstitutional, and that new redistricting maps be drawn.

The 2-1 ruling in the US District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, found that the congressional districts were skewed because of partisan gerrymandering, and cannot be used beyond the 2018 midterm elections.

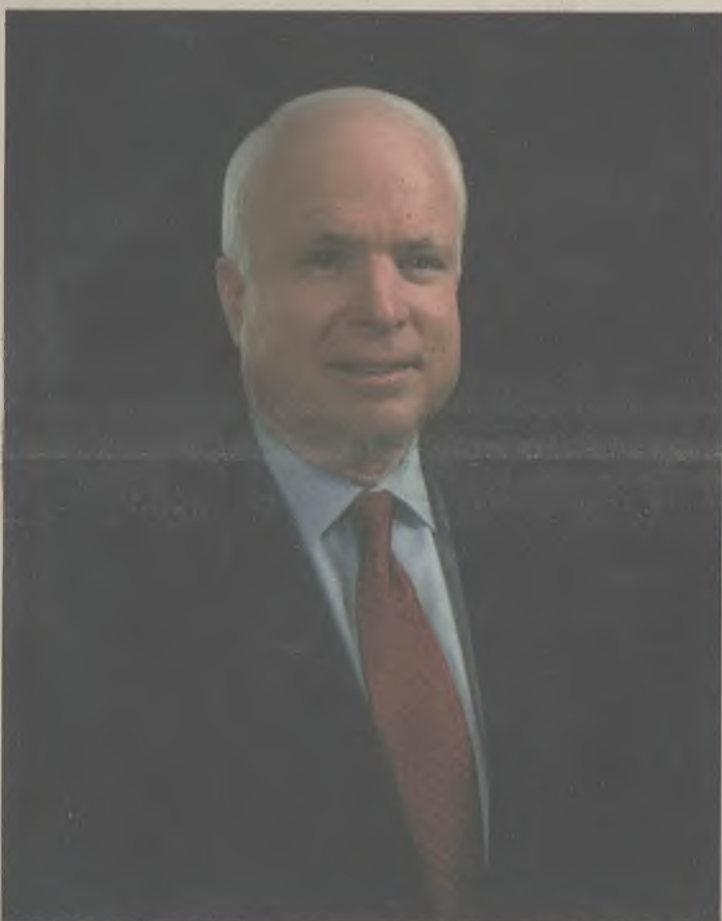


Photo of John McCain during an interview, April 24, 1974. Collection of the Library of Congress.

### NNPA Official Statement on the Passing of Senator John McCain

Washington, DC, August 27, 2018 — The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) extends sincerest condolences to the family of Senator John McCain. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr, President and CEO of the NNPA emphasized, "John McCain's integrity and courage were his greatest virtues. His national leadership example is still needed today not only in the U.S. Senate, but also in every state, city and town across America."

Dorothy Leavell, Chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Crusader Newspapers, stated, "The death of Senator John McCain reminds us that none of us are immortal, but his life was one of service and love for his country. Giving of one's service until the end speaks volumes of his integrity and he fulfilled the call from our maker to be of service to others."

Cloves Campbell III, former Chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Arizona Informant observed, "Senator John McCain will be remembered in the African American community of Arizona as a national statesman who grew and evolved particularly in his later years as an elected official who transcended partisan politics and who eventually did what he thought was the right thing to do rather than to be confined to political party loyalty. That is why he voted pivotally to save the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) at a time when most Republicans were voting to end the ACA."

"His acts of service in war, where he was held captive, and then at home, was one of dignity, respect and care in the United States Senate far surpassing many others in similar circumstances," concluded Leavell. "Above all, he put partisanship aside to make decisions that were in the best interest of all of the citizens of the United States and usually without much fanfare. We shall remember him and miss his brand of high character in the Senate. We add our condolences to his family and our country as a whole. Rest in peace (RIP) dear Senator."

In fact, the judges offered a choice — either draw new redistricting maps before the November elections, or hold primaries in November based on new maps, and hold elections in January just before the new Congress is sworn-in.

According to the court decision, led by Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge James A. Wynn, Jr., the Republican-led NC General Assembly deliberately used "political data" from past elections when it drew its 2016 redistricting maps "... specifying whether, and to what extent, particular voting precincts had favored Republican or Democratic candidates, and therefore were likely to do so in the future — to draw a districting plan that would ensure Republican candidates would prevail in the vast majority of the State's congressional districts, and would continue to do so in future elections."

The result, the court said were thirteen North Carolina congressional districts — ten of which elected Republicans, three Democrats, in a state where Democrat and Republican numbers are virtually even.

Irving Joyner, chair of the NCNAACP Legal Redress Committee, and law professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law, applauded the court ruling.

"This is a great consideration and determination by the Court which demonstrate, once again, how extreme this General Assembly has been in its misguided efforts to illegally retain political power for ultra-right wing zealots in our legislature," Joyner said in a statement. "The Court recognized the unconstitutionality of what the General Assembly did with this partisan restricting and, once again, the people of North Carolina have had to suffer for this misconduct. At the same time, this General Assembly continues to do everything possible to corrupt and diminish the separation of powers in this State and it requires resort to the Court to resist this uncontrolled quest for power by this group of legislators."

The nonpartisan group, Common Cause of North Carolina, a litigant in the case, also hailed the ruling.

"We are pleased that a North Carolina federal court has once again state what we've long believed, that partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional," said Bob Phillips, Common Cause NC executive director.

"This is an historic win for voters, and a significant step towards finally ending gerrymandering."

On January 9<sup>th</sup> earlier this year, the federal court initially struck down the 2016 maps drawn by the NC legislature as unconstitutional. Republicans filed an emergency stay after the court ruled then that remedial maps should be drawn, hoping that the US Supreme Court would take up the matter. But the High Court didn't. The case was eventually remanded to the District Court.

At press time, NC Republican lawmakers asked the US Supreme Court to stay the federal court order, saying what was being mandated was "simply impossible."

### Duke historians ask to remove Confederate veteran's name

(AP) - Duke University history professors want to remove the name of a benefactor who espoused white supremacist ideas from their department's building.

University spokesman Michael Schoenfeld said Aug. 28 the history department asked to rename the Carr Building, where the department is housed.

Schoenfeld says the request, first reported by The Chronicle student newspaper, will go through a formal process for reconsidering names that gives trustees the final say.

The building is named for Julian Carr, a Confederate veteran and tobacco magnate who gave land where part of Duke was built.

Carr is also known for his 1913 speech at the University of North Carolina's dedication of the Confederate monument known as Silent Sam. During the speech he bragged about whipping a black woman. Protesters tore down Silent Sam last week.



REV. WILLIAM BARBER

### Social justice movement veterans help Poor People's Campaign

By Martha Waggoner and Errin Haines Whack

CARTHAGE(AP) - As the Poor People's Campaign launches a new initiative, its charismatic leader is working with the generation of civil rights leaders who stood by the Rev. Martin Luther King's side and continued his efforts to stamp out poverty and racism after his assassination.

"The movement for love and justice and truth is always a continuation. It's never completed," said the Rev. William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. "And you never approach any movement for justice as though you were the first one."

Leaders who have battled injustice since the 1960s -- the Rev. Jesse Jackson, children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman, and attorney Al McSurely -- say the work of the Poor People's Campaign is urgently needed as income and wealth inequality grows.

"Fewer and fewer have more and more, subsidized by the government," Jackson said in an interview at his office in Chicago. "And more and more have less and less."

From now through October, the campaign will be working to register people for the movement and to vote, piloted by volunteers. Barber said he expects more than 5,000 volunteers to participate in 26 states this weekend.

Volunteers will go beyond merely registering people to vote by emphasizing the connection between joining the movement and casting a ballot and by educating people about the Poor People's Campaign issues, Barber said.

The registration drive is the second phase of action this year. The first, 40 days of activism, ended in June with a rally attended by thousands in Washington, D.C. It was followed by appearances earlier this month by former Vice President Al Gore in North Carolina. Gore spoke at a service at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, where Barber is the minister, and at a rally the next day in Greensboro.

King had announced the Poor People's Campaign in December 1967 and planned to hold a massive demonstration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. But four months later, he was felled by an assassin's bullet. The demonstration that King had planned still took place. Edelman moved to Washington, D.C., to lead the campaign. Protesters set up camp, with Jackson serving as "mayor" of what they called Resurrection City. McSurely brought in busloads of Appalachian residents.

Today, Jackson is president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Edelman is founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. And McSurely, whose home was firebombed in 1968, is an attorney in Carthage, North Carolina, and serves as adviser to the campaign. He paid for law school with funds from a settlement he received after the federal government wrongly tried him for contempt of Congress.

Barber said he appreciates his predecessors' wisdom and advice, especially considering that the assassinations of King and Robert Kennedy could have killed their spark.

"People have to be reminded that the civil rights movement, the Poor People's Campaign, they didn't just end," said Barber, who leads the new campaign with the Rev. Liz Theoharis of the Kairos Center. "They were assassinated; they were murdered; they were killed. Those still here experienced tremendous pain and hurt watching certain elements of a nation so filled with hate and racism that they would rather kill prophets of justice and love rather than listen to them."

The work is hard and exhausting, McSurely said. But King's murder did not kill his vision. "That's what people don't understand. You know, it's literally like being a soldier, a nonviolent soldier in the Army. And we've got to fight until we die."

The campaign continued after the assassination of Robert Kennedy, who was emphasizing poverty and hunger. Black-and-white television footage shows Edelman and Kennedy visiting some of the poorest families in Mississippi. That footage nationalized the movement to help the hungry because the press followed Kennedy, Edelman said.

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