



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruth Hassell-Thompson

Statement from Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson Regarding the Passing of Dr. Benjamin Hooks

RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON April 22, 2010

Dr. Benjamin Hooks once famously said, “You can read the history of a country through its actions.” On Monday, April 19, 2010, the New York State Senate paused to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Hooks, a stalwart in the fight to eliminate racism and create a fairer, more just America for our Nation’s children.

The actions taken by Dr. Hooks, as presiding officer of the NAACP from 1977-1992 will continue to help write a better history. While human rights are still not guaranteed to all, Dr. Hooks provided us with a blueprint on how to successfully negotiate securing human rights for all, irrespective of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. We are deeply saddened by his loss, but will strive to continue his legacy.