



FEB
2010

25 California Legislature /Gov Schwarzenegger Present Proclamation to Black Stuntmen's Association

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the historic founding of the Black Stuntmen's Association; a group of African-American stuntmen, and women athletes, and extras, founded the Black Stuntmen's Association in Los Angeles, California, in 1967 to combat racial discrimination and create equal opportunities for all people of color in the motion picture and television stunt industry. Whereas motion picture and television productions at the time commonly featured White stuntmen and women as stunt doubles for African-American actors and those of other races, using makeup to darken their complexion in a process known as a 'paint-down'. African-Americans were routinely denied job opportunities and formal training in the stunt industry due to lingering racism. The increased use of African-American actors in motion pictures and television in the 1960s brought more attention to the common industry practice of using only White stuntmen and women. The Black Stuntmen's Association pursued legal action to bring additional diversity to the motion picture and television industry and continued to monitor compliance with the resulting agreements. The original members of the Black Stuntmen's Association paved the way for greater racial equality in the motion picture and television industry in the ensuing years, but in many cases were unable to benefit from their hard-won victory. The efforts of the Black Stuntmen's Association also helped tear down discriminatory barriers and prejudices in other parts of the motion picture and television industry, both in front of and behind the camera; and have made a significant and lasting contribution to the quality of motion picture and television productions in the United States: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress-- (1) recognizes the historic founding

of the Black Stuntmen's Association and (2) honors the contributions of this organization and their members in the fight for racial equality and justice in the motion picture and television industry.