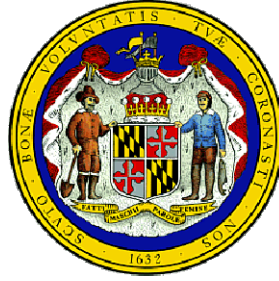


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Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARYLAND LYNCHING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION COMMENDS IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT'S POSTHUMOUS PULITZER PRIZE AWARD

Wells' Work Informs Commission's Research and Restorative Justice Mandates

Annapolis, MD (May 12, 2020) – The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MD LTRC) expresses its approval and appreciation for the posthumous awarding of a Pulitzer Special Citation to civil rights icon Ida B. Wells-Barnett, “for her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching.”

Ida B. Wells-Barnett risked her life to chronicle the overwhelming pervasiveness of racial terror lynchings in the southern United States, bringing attention to and demanding justice for these brazen acts of sadism and inhumanity which sought to demonstrate and preserve White power. Nearly 90 years after her passing, the MD LTRC “stands on the shoulders” of Mrs. Wells-Barnett to carry out its mandate of researching the 40-plus confirmed racial terror lynchings in the state between 1854-1933, and bringing restorative justice and healing to the descendants of victims, perpetrators, spectators and communities affected by the history of unjustified, racially-driven murders.

It is the Commission’s intent to honor the legacy of Ida B. Wells-Barnett and other anti-lynching activists by elevating and preserving the stories of racial terror lynchings and their impact on American society both then and now, and serving as a catalyst for conciliation, understanding, peace and respect for all life. As Mrs. Wells-Barnett created a model for the Commission to follow, so too will the Commission create a model for the rest of the United States to follow.

“If we demand truth and liberation, we must be as committed, as brave, and as unapologetic as Ida B. And we will because history demands no less of us than that.”

– Dr. David O. Fakunle, Ph.D., MD LTRC Chair

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The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established by House Bill 307 in the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission can be reached at <https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/> or via email at mltrc@maryland.gov.