



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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National Black Nurses Association Celebrates Pride Month

Silver Spring, MD – The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) proudly celebrates National Pride Month, reaffirming our commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and equity within the nursing profession and the communities we serve.

The National Black Nurses Association, Inc. (NBNA) stands in solidarity with the LGBTQI+ community, recognizing the importance of inclusivity, diversity, and the rich tapestry of identities within our ranks and beyond. Pride Month, celebrated each June, serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and acceptance, as well as the remarkable achievements of LGBTQI+ individuals.

At the heart of NBNA's mission is a commitment to health equity and access to quality care for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. We recognize that the intersections of race, sexuality, and gender identity can present unique challenges to our LGBTQI+ members and the communities we serve. As nurses, it is our responsibility to amplify the voices of the historically marginalized and to ensure that our work reflects the diverse experiences of all nursing professionals.

This month, we honor one of our founding members, **Phyllis Lucia Jenkins, MA, RN, FADLN**, a proud member of the LGBTQI+ community who played a pivotal role in shaping NBNA. Her courage and dedication to both nursing and LGBTQI+ advocacy inspired generations. Phyllis championed not only the rights of Black nurses but also the inclusion of LGBTQI+ voices within the healthcare system.

In 2007, Phyllis's mentor, Claire Fagan, presented her with the Estelle Osborne Award from NYU in recognition of "a lifetime of outstanding contributions to international health and for the support of African Americans in nursing." In 2010, Phyllis was interviewed by Lara Spotts for the *Legacy of Voices* oral history project presented by OUTWORDS. You can view the interview here: <https://theoutwordsarchive.org/interview/phyllis-jenkins/>

Phyllis passed away in 2022 at the age of 91. Her obituary can be found here: <https://www.lanzafuneralhome.com/obituaries/Phyllis-Lucia-Jenkins?obId=30929781>

As we commemorate Pride Month, we reaffirm our belief that health is a fundamental human right. NBNA is committed to addressing the health disparities faced by any group regardless of

sexual identity, gender, race, religion, or creed. We work tirelessly to ensure that everyone receives compassionate, competent care regardless of income, identity, or whom they love.

Let us continue to foster an environment where all individuals feel safe, respected, and valued. Together, we can continue to challenge discrimination and promote understanding, compassion, and love in all that we do as nurses.

Happy Pride Month!

In solidarity,

Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FADLN, FAAN
14th President, National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

About NBNA

Founded in 1971, the mission of NBNA is “to serve as the voice for black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA represents 500,000 black registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean, and Africa, through 112 chartered chapters, in 32 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more at NBNA.org