



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.  
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 910, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Phone: (301) 589-3200 • Fax: (301) 589-3223

---

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Faith Janecke

E: [janeckef@gmail.com](mailto:janeckef@gmail.com) P: 301-589-3200

February 17, 2026

## **The National Black Nurses Association, Inc. Honors the Life and Legacy of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** - The **National Black Nurses Association, (NBNA)** joins those around the world in mourning the passing of civil rights icon Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, whose lifelong commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity extended deeply into the advancement of healthcare advocacy and the elevation of Black nurses.



*Seventh National Black Nurses Day: Congressman Stokes, Dr. Linda Burnes Bolton, Congressman Bennie Thompson, Romeo Spaulding, President of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, Ophelia Long, Chairperson of BCHLE and Rev. Jesse Jackson.*

During the formative years of NBNA, when the organization was building its voice in national policy discussions, Rev. Jackson stood with the association during its **Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill** event. His presence brought national visibility and moral authority to the concerns of Black nurses and the communities they serve. He helped underscore that healthcare equity is inseparable from civil rights and encouraged lawmakers to recognize nurses as essential leaders in shaping public health policy.

“Rev. Jackson understood that nurses are not only caregivers, but advocates for justice in healthcare,” **NBNA Health Policy Committee Chair, Dr. Vivienne Pierce McDaniel** stated. “At a critical time in our history, he gave our mission credibility and helped open doors that strengthened our impact for decades to come,” said **NBNA President, Dr. Sheldon D. Fields**.

His legacy of service continues through his son, **Congressman Jonathan Jackson**, who like his father, has attended NBNA’s annual Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill throughout his tenure in Congress. His ongoing partnership reflects a generational commitment to advancing health equity and ensuring that the voices of Black nurses remain present in national policy conversations.

Today, the work of NBNA, to advance health, advocate for historically underserved communities, and to shape equitable healthcare policy, carries forward the spirit of Rev. Jackson’s leadership. His influence lives on in the policies he improved, the communities he helped to strengthen, and the nurses he empowered to lead. The National Black Nurses Association extends its heartfelt condolences to the Jackson family and to all who were inspired by his exemplary life of service.

#### **About the National Black Nurses Association**

Founded in 1971, the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) represents approximately 308,000 Black registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students in 115 chapters across the United States, the Eastern Caribbean, and Africa. NBNA’s mission is to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations, promoting equity in healthcare and advancing the professional and educational development of nurses worldwide.

For more information, visit [www.nbna.org](http://www.nbna.org)