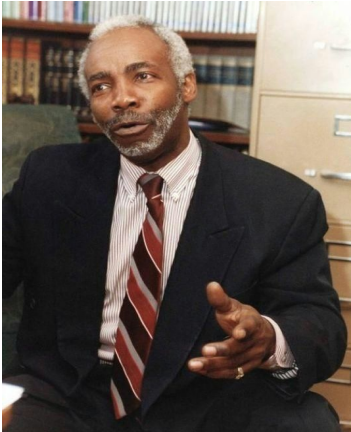


ABOUT HK EDGERTON



He saw it coming. That day in Dallas, Texas in 1991 at the National Convention of the NAACP, HK Edgerton, then president of the Asheville Branch, along with his brother, Terry Lee, watched an agenda item presented and adopted that would revitalize the sputtering organization and change its direction forever.

The NAACP in the 90's was viewed as many observers as having outlived its useful life through its accomplishment of much of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dreams.

But with its coffers nearly empty, and on the heels of its losses in its massive movement demanding wholesale reparations for American slavery, HK Edgerton and Terry Lee would watch aghast as a new, more attainable target was identified...the most prominent symbol of the South...the "Southern Cross". And so, the agenda of the NAACP would change - away from its legacy inherited from Dr. King of advancement and equality to one of hate, hell-bent on advantage at the expense of dead American Veterans, their symbols, and, through association, their descendants.

Edgerton, a lifelong civil rights activist, had worked his way up to NAACP Chapter President, but couldn't shake loose corruption and new black cronyism that advanced certain members but kept others down. Looking for help, he reached out to local whites and, in the process, deepened his knowledge of Southern History. It was that backdrop that Edgerton left the session believing that nothing good would come from it.

He was right. In the decade following the Resolution, the NAACP would have many victories in its first wave of assault in the war...defenseless children. Targeting public school children, the NAACP would use school officials to obtain the expulsion of hundreds of children wearing Southern themed T-shirts from public schools – disenfranchising those who would not submit and intimidating the rest. These incidents were remote and far flung enough for John Q. Public to be completely oblivious of the precedents being set.



HK Edgerton would become a lightning rod for these school children, which he began to call "his babies," as dozens and dozens of pleas for his help would come from around the South. HK's "babies" just wanted someone to protect them from meddlesome school officials that didn't understand that the flags weren't hate symbols, but just innocent expressions of family, home and regional pride. HK would respond to these pleas, and drop all of his business and other public activities...except

for his golf coaching for poor children in Asheville... to respond. Edgerton teamed up with his old ally in the Asheville corruption matter, Kirk Lyons, who had previously started the Southern Legal Resource Center. The effect, a "one-two punch" of legal action and HK Edgerton with a "winning the

hearts and minds campaign” was a potent antidote. Slowly, his personal funds would be depleted, and his enthusiasm for responses was constrained only by incoming financial support for his efforts and occasional paid speaking appearances by open-minded individuals in groups that had not been wholly coalesced by NAACP & Co.

But it didn't take long for the battle to expand from flags on heritage themed t-shirts to bigger targets . Edgerton had been taken to task by one of his 'babies' for allowing his hometown soldier monument honoring the Confederate dead in Asheville, NC, to become a victim of hostile neglect by the City Council, provoked by what Edgerton calls "cultural blackmail...equating them [the monuments] with black slavery and latter-day racism."

Along the way, Edgerton would acquire a confederate soldier's uniform and his own Southern Cross – and a week would not go by that he didn't make a local appearance if he wasn't on the road fighting for the rights of southern school children.

Nine years into the war, NAACP would score a very public win against a more benign target. In 2000, then Texas governor George Bush would cave to NAACP pressure to remove two bronze plaques honoring Texas' Confederate Veterans, only one bearing an image of the 'Southern Cross.' The war's targets had expanded from flags...also to monuments.

HK Edgerton, Texans and many around the country were outraged by Bush's "in the dark of night" cowardly move. In response, HK would embark on what would become his "Historic March" from Asheville, NC to Texas. In 2002, at age 55, he would walk the 1,600 miles to the Texas Supreme Court building, attracting publicity and supporters along the way. A loose knit group of supporters would aid the effort, including Brother Terry Lee, who would document the march in a book. For the most part, though, the march was solo, bolstered by an outpouring of love and support from passers-by who would go out of their way to offer kindness and love offerings to keep him fed and with a place to sleep. In reminiscing about the March, Edgerton remembers fondly being bestowed the keys to the City of Toccoa, Georgia by African-American Mayor Harold O'Neil.



Edgerton, believing his work was done after this physically taxing, but national publicity-garnering effort, thought about slacking off. Chastised by his aging mother asking if 'his babies' could wear their t-shirts to school without fear, he realized that his work was not done. When she died in 2005, she would receive a funeral with full Confederate military honors. A bittersweet day for HK, he was re-fortified to continue on until his work was complete.

In 2007, while most Southerners hadn't been disrupted from sweet tea drinking, BBQ eating and NASCAR watching, HK Edgerton was cautioning that an organized effort was underway to erase everything "Confederate" from American History, and fix blame on exclusively the South and the Confederacy for the "evils of slavery." Their battle plan: to remove all Confederate flags, monuments,

statues, plaques, and names of Confederate leaders from public view by calling them 'racist' and 'symbols of hate.'

HK's activism was never-ceasing...becoming a prominent soldier in many of the key battles in the NAACP's hate campaign. Nicknamed the 'Black Avenger,' Edgerton, a civil rights activist from the days of Dr. King forward, was able to speak against adversaries of the South in a way many Southerners couldn't or wouldn't. He wasn't afraid of being called a "racist" – he would become an enigma in a day when a 'peaceful protest' was something you read about in history books.

Featured on national and local TV, radio and press interviews, HK would emerge as an unpaid spokesperson for the South and the Confederate Veteran. "It's the same fight," says Edgerton, regarding his 'Black Avenger' moniker. "I'm following Dr. King. He never would have wanted this."

In 2014, Edgerton saw it coming again. "Mississippi and Florida will be the Alamo of 2015/16. It's ironic that even the Alamo Veterans and their descendants are now under attack. The 2016 Florida legislature would adopt two out of three anti-Southern history measures in its session, and the Mississippi State Flag is under an all-out siege by a group of cut outs for the NAACP that have descended into Mississippi to peddle their hate and try to convince Mississippians that a piece of cloth flying over schools and buildings is somehow "racist."

There have been claims that Edgerton is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, but HK's position has only been an "Honorary"

member. But he was bestowed with the 2014 by Past Commander in Chief Michael Givens in the organization's annual reunion. Though eligible, he prefers to work independently of the group, allowing him the flexibility to step outside of the chain of command.



Edgerton rebuffs the NAACP and Black Lives Matters activists and their allies. "This is our flag, too!" he admonishes. "The South wouldn't have lasted a day but for the free and slave participation by Black Southerners. I'm an African-American, and I'm a Southerner, and I believe my heritage, which is represented by the flag bearing the Christian Cross of St. Andrew, is being ignored and destroyed. It's continuing to divide the black folks and the white folks who have a lot in common," Edgerton said.

Today, at age 68 (born 87 years to the day that Confederate President Jefferson Davis made his first Presidential inaugural speech), Edgerton still is as passionate for his civil rights activism as ever before. Even though his walking pace may have slowed, his message is as powerful as ever.

HK's appearances and opinions appear on his website: www.southernheritage411.com.

