



July 31, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing this letter to request a congratulatory acknowledgement from you to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Underwater Adventure Seekers (UAS). UAS is an African-American scuba diving club that was founded in Washington, DC, in 1959, and is one of the oldest scuba diving clubs in the world.

Through the years UAS has introduced scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming and water safety and conservation to thousands of African-Americans in the Washington, DC area. We provide a four-year scholarship for students majoring in marine biology at the University of the District of Columbia and we participate in many community service events.

UAS was founded by Dr. A. Jose Jones, a PhD in Marine Biology, Fulbright Scholar, and Purple Heart recipient to provide a community for divers of color.

In 1991, UAS was crucial to the founding of the world-wide organization, The National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS). Today NABS has over 2000 card carrying members. Many UAS and NABS members recently received the "Take Pride in America" award for "Outstanding Public Private Partnership" from the Department of Interior for our "Diving With A Purpose" program. UAS also helped to create the "Voyage of Discovery" program, a memorandum of understanding agreement for a National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant. Our goal is to support the preservation and conservation of the Oceans; as such, we collaborate to develop volunteer divers in underwater archeology and host a week long youth marine biology conference.

Dr. Jones and NABS have also placed and are maintaining a plaque at the wreckage site of the Henrietta Marie, a sunken slave ship off the coast of Key West, Florida.

Fox 5 News in Washington, DC, recently aired a feature on the Underwater Adventure Seekers. To further establish who we are please see:

[http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/mornings/022709\\_african\\_american\\_scuba\\_trailblazers/](http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/mornings/022709_african_american_scuba_trailblazers/)

We realize that this is a special request and hope to receive a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States. To help us mark this achievement and be able to read it at our anniversary gala on Saturday, September 19, 2009 may we please receive the acknowledgement by September 4, 2009?

\*\*\*\*\* Washington, DC \*\*\*\*\* § <http://uasdivers.org> § <http://nabsdivers.org>

Please address the congratulatory letter to:

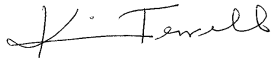
Underwater Adventure Seekers  
Dr. A. Jose Jones, Founder  
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Please mail the congratulatory letter and all related correspondence to:

Ms. Kim Terrell  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
202-544-KIMS (5467)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Kim Terrell  
Member

\* = removed for utilization on KIMS' News