On behalf of The National Conference of Black Political Scientists, I issue this Presidential Proclamation recognizing the lifetime of service and dedication by our premier founder, Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage. In 1969, from her office at Southern University, she issued an invitation to a small cadre of like-minded black political scientists, which set in motion the founding of our beloved National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). Her clarion call to action gave voice to a range of concerns felt and understood all too well by blacks studying and teaching in the field political science at their various institutions. In her simple action of calling a meeting, she galvanized a group of black scholars to challenge and transform a hegemonic discipline. We recognize that by convening that first group of black scholars at Southern University in April of 1969, Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage planted a seed that shaped the future of the study of black politics and the careers of countless blacks in the profession. Some 45 years later, we remain grateful for her astute organizing skills and steadfast insistence that blacks in political science needed to organize our own organization.

As one member describes the illustrious career achievements of Dr. Prestage,

As the first African-American female recipient of a doctorate in Political Science and the best known and most revered Black Political Scientist in the country, she was a Drum Major for Black Political Scientists and Black Political Science. The historic 1968 meeting led to the establishment and incorporation of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists in 1969. And, over the following decades, Dr. Prestage was a frequent panelist and local arrangements chair for annual NCOBPS conferences. She served on Standing Committees and the Board of Directors and was elected Historian and President of NCOBPS. Moreover, while serving as Vice President of the American Political Science Association, President of the Southern Political Science Association and President of the Southwestern Political Science Association, she was NCOBPS's most prestigious and effective advocate.

Today, with 400 members, we continue to uphold the mission Dr. Prestage and the other founders set in motion some 45 years ago. We continue to not only study the conditions of black people in the U.S. and around the globe, but we actively participate in positively transforming the political fortunes of black people globally.

On behalf of the members of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, I Wendy G. Smooth, President of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists offer our endless gratitude to our beloved founder, Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage for her dedication and service.

In honor of Dr. Prestage, I call upon all members of the National Council of Black Political Scientists to reaffirm our commitments to the core mission of the organization and its guiding principle to study and act on behalf of the betterment of black people across the globe. On this day, July 23, 2014 on behalf of the Executive Council and our entire
membership, I bestow upon Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage the prestigious *Honorary Lifetime Membership* to the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.