The NAACP, along with Dr. King – working in collaboration—made America a better place for all.

Last Saturday night, the Cleveland Branch NAACP celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel.

We would be totally remiss without acknowledging the yeoman work of Cleveland Cavaliers majority owner and Rock Caesar Gaming CEO for serving as honorary chairman of the Branch's 57th annual Freedom Fund Dinner that celebrated the Branch's milestone birthday.

Last Saturday's event shows that the venerable civil rights organization remains a powerful force and resonate voice in the betterment of persons of color in these United States.

Too be sure, the days of the Civil Rights era of this nation have vaulted African-America, its families and progeny to heights in America we could never imagine.

But Freedom Fund dinner keynote speaker Roland Martin said it best in his address to attendees that the NAACP must evolve in a 21st century America.

We could not agree more with this assessment.

No longer are African-Americans afraid to cast votes in polling places across this land. We, as a people, have this inalienable right thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We no longer, as a people, have to have separate public accommodations in restaurants, hotels and sit on back of buses or railroad cars.

The NAACP, along with Dr. King – working in collaboration—made America a better place for all.

And now, are in the 21st century.

And work still must be done.

The “new” NAACP” must forge ahead with new frontiers.

We have no doubt the organization will serve our people well for another century.

Happy Birthday, Cleveland Branch NAACP. And many more.