

**(Fort Lauderdale, FL)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) made the following statement regarding the selection of the Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA) by the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) to perform in the 57th Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama and Vice President Biden on January 21, 2013:

"It is my great privilege and honor to announce that the LGBA has been invited by the Presidential Inaugural Committee to march in the upcoming Presidential Inaugural Parade. Over 2,800 applications were received, and I am truly pleased that the LGBA will have the opportunity to be a part of this historic event.

"Marching bands are one of our nation's great traditions, and the LGBA helps continue this legacy while representing the tremendous diversity of our country. It will be sending 280 musicians from 27 states and the District of Columbia to perform in the parade.

"For more than 30 years, the LGBA has brought together lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans and their local bands. Its members consist of accomplished adult musicians from 34 national and international marching band member organizations who play on a volunteer basis.

"The LGBA is no stranger to fame. In fact, this will be the second time that it has marched in an inaugural parade, having made history as the first gay and lesbian group to march in a Presidential Inaugural Parade for President Obama in 2009. In addition, the LGBA previously performed as part of both the 1993 and 1997 Inaugural celebrations for President Bill Clinton, as well as in major events both nationally and abroad.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Adam DeRosa, President of the LGBA and one of my constituents, as well as each and every one of its members. They can surely be proud of all their hard work. I have no doubt that the LGBA will inspire Inaugural Parade-goers with yet another spectacular show, and I very much look forward to seeing it."

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the*

*Florida Delegation.*

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