

Benjamin Lawson Hooks Featured NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Speaker

Benjamin L. Hooks was unanimously elected executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by the NAACP National Board of Directors on January 10, 1977, and assumed office on August 1, 1977. As the chief administrative officer of the oldest civil rights organization in the world, Mr. Hooks is perhaps best known for his highly effective and persuasive oratory.



Benjamin L. Hooks

His highly successful career spans a number of fields. Benjamin L. Hooks first gained nationwide recognition upon his nomination in 1972 to serve on the Federal Communication Commission, becoming the first Black in history to assume that position. As a lawyer in Memphis, he was an Assistant Public Defender and later received distinction as a first Black judge to serve in the Shelby County (Memphis) Criminal Court. As an ordained minister, he is on leave from both The Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee and The Greater New Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. As a prominent local businessman, he was to co-founder and Vice President of the Mutual Federal Savings

and Loan Association in Memphis for 15 years (1955-1969).

Under his progressive leadership, the NAACP took a more aggressive posture on U.S. policies toward African nations through a successful demonstration in Nashville, Tennessee to protest South Africa's participation in the Davis Cup Tennis matches and through testimony before the House Subcommittee on Africa opposing the lifting of sections against Rhodesia. His relentless effort to develop a common platform among Black leaders resulted in the leadership summit conference in Chicago and many similar meetings in subsequent years.

Among his many battles on Capitol Hill, Hooks led the historical Prayer Vigil in Washington, D.C. in 1979 against the Mottl anti-busting amendment which was eventually defeated in Congress; led in the fight for passage of the D.C. Home Rule Bill; and was instrumental in gathering important senate and house votes on the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill. Through such programs as the Emergency Relief Program to assist victims of natural disasters and the urban assistance program in Miami, following riots in that city, he also continues the NAACP's tradition of providing technical and financial assistance to the Black community. In 1980, Hooks scored another first by becoming the first national political figure ever to address both national political conventions in the same year.

Benjamin L. Hooks hosted the popular syndicated series, "Go Tell It: The Ben

Hooks Report", and produced his own weekly television series, "Conversations in Black and White". He also appeared as a panelist on "What is Your Faith" on a regular basis.

He was born in Memphis, Tennessee and attended LeMoyné College in Memphis and Howard University in Washington, D.C. He received his J.D. degree from DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois in 1948. He is a World War II veteran, and served in the 92nd Infantry Division's campaign in Italy.

He is a Life Member of the NAACP and a former member of the Board of Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Memphis and the Shelby County Human Relations Committee. Dr. Hooks presently serves on the board of directors of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), the National Alliance of Business, the League of Women Voters, the Legal Aid Society, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Hampton Institute or LeMoyné-Owens College. He sits on the Council of Foreign Relations and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy and is Chairman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Benjamin Hooks and his wife, have a daughter, Mrs. Patricia Louise Gray, and two grandsons.

Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Las Vegas Chapter NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet to be held at the Desert Inn Hotel and Casino on November 17 1989 at 7:30 p.m.

Lou Rawls Reveals Plans To Help Revitalize Westside

Entertainer Lou Rawls met Monday with Las Vegas Councilman Steve Miller, City Manager Ashley Hall and Economic Development Director Jack Thomason to discuss his plans for aiding in efforts to revitalize the Westside.

"You've got the fastest growing community in the country now, but we don't have anywhere anything for the Black community," he said.

Rawls wants to buy the proposed Rhett Butler Hotel and Casino which is scheduled to be built at Rancho Drive and Bonanza Road. He would rename the facility the Lou Rawls Ebony Palace and would market it nationally toward more affluent Blacks who want to visit Las Vegas.

Rawls who says he has been interested in the Westside for a long time would also like to acquire other



Lou Rawls

property in that area which he would use to build a cultural center and a senior center. He indicated that his plans for the Westside would

be carried out in several phases, hopefully with the help of some other celebrities. He declined, however, to name the other celebrities, saying he would rather wait "until they put their money where their mouth is."

The use permit for the Rhett Butler Hotel and Casino, which is to be constructed from a former church building, is issued by the City Council to Klondike Inn owner John Woodrum, his partner Jack Riley and a number of other investors. Woodrum confirmed that Rawls has sent in a substantial amount of money as an escrow deposit, but indicated no deal has been struck.

Councilman Miller said that Lou Rawls would probably enter into partnership with Westside businessman Otis Harris, whose participation is needed in order for the use permit to be valid.

State Humanities Committee Awards Grant To Support Publication Of Oral History Of Lubertha Johnson

The Nevada Humanities Committee, in the last of three grant review meetings, awarded \$18,497 to nine proposals.

One of the grants awarded was to the Oral History Program, University of Nevada, Reno, which received \$500 for "Lubertha Johnson: Civil Rights Efforts in Las Vegas, 1940s-1960s," to support the publication of the oral history of this prominent and active member of the Las Vegas community. For more information, contact Tom King at 784-6932.

Also the northern Nevada Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee received a \$1,000 planning grant for a "Traveling Black History Exhibit." The exhibit, which will tour Nevada libraries and



Lubertha Johnson

museums during 1990, will focus on Dr. King, U.S. African American history and

Nevada African American history. Contact Elmer Rusco at 747-6727 for more information.

The Nevada Humanities Committee is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Awards and other services are available to any non-profit organization.

For information call 784-6987 in Reno or 798-0337 in Las Vegas.

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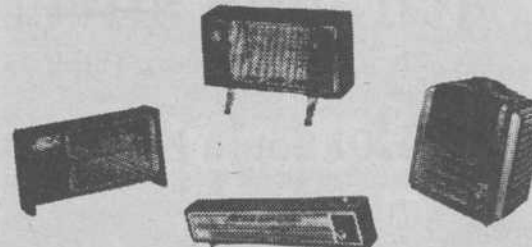
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