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MEMPHIS BRANCH NAACP BIDS FAREWELL TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Madeleine Taylor Retires after Twenty Six Years of Service to Local Branch

(December 21st, 2016 – Memphis, TENN) – The Memphis Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a farewell luncheon on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at the Bleu Restaurant at the Westin Hotel, (221 S. BB King Blvd) at 11:30 a.m. in honor of Executive Director Madeleine Taylor, who after twenty six years of service to the NAACP - six years as Executive Director- has retired.

“Over the 26 years that I have been involved with the NAACP, I have had the opportunity to serve my community in a number of different venues whether voter empowerment, employment, criminal justice, health care, education or youth work,” said Taylor. “This journey has been truly invaluable, and I hope that I have been able to make a difference for the many who seek the help of the NAACP daily. It is more than a job. It is a passion. It is an experience.”

A native Memphian, Taylor attended Spelman College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Simmons College in Boston, MA magna cum laude. She received a Master of Science from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, with honors in Human Ecology and Marketing.

Taylor’s career began on the streets of south Memphis as an assistant to a social worker at MAP-South in the War on Poverty program. Her extensive work history includes teaching with Memphis City Schools and marketing assignments with Exxon in Nashville, Maryland and Virginia. Taylor was also marketing manager at South Central Bell and later AT&T. After 20 years of service to the Memphis Branch, she was appointed to the position of Executive Director, which she has held since February 2010.

In 2005, Taylor was recognized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with their Community Service Award. In 2007, she was appointed to the Memphis City Council to represent District 3, which serves Whitehaven, Oakhaven and Hickory Hill area of Memphis.

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Her civic involvement has focused on youth development, which includes serving on the boards of Jesse Mahan Day Care Center, Girls, Inc. and the Girls Scout Council of the Mid-South. Taylor continues to be actively involved with the Shelby County Links Beautillion for young men and the Leadership Academy, the NAACP Youth Council and the Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is a subscribing Gold Life NAACP member and also a faithful member of Brown Baptist Church.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of Dr. Harold L. Taylor, who was the first black oral surgeon in Memphis. She is also the proud parent of two adult daughters, who were raised in the tradition of the NAACP.

About the Memphis Branch NAACP:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest civil rights organization, and the Memphis Branch NAACP is the largest branch of the organization in the United States. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. During the entire year of 2017, the Memphis Branch NAACP is celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

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