



**NAACP Memphis**  
www.naacpmemphis.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **NAACP MEMPHIS BRANCH SADDENED BY LOSS OF BERNAL SMITH, II**

Deidre Malone, President,  
NAACP MEMPHIS BRANCH

**(October 25, 2017 – Memphis, TENN)** The NAACP Memphis Branch is stunned and saddened by the untimely loss of Tri-State Defender Publisher, Bernal Smith, II. He was a friend to our organization and an advocate for the community. Through his work at the New Tri-State Defender he brought new, fresh perspectives and events to the tri-state area, and created dialogue around the current state of our city, state and country. Mr. Smith will be missed by all of us. Our Branch would like to extend heartfelt and sincere condolences to his bereaved family and to the staff and Board of Directors of the New Tri-State Defender.

#### **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 NAACP Memphis Branch is celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

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