



President & CEO
Olivia Dobbins
901-527-2BBA

The Black Business Association of Memphis
555 Beale Street Memphis, TN 38103

Board Members

October 16, 1995

Chairman

H. A. Gilliam, Jr.

Dr. Arthur Fletcher
Commissioner

Chair-Elect

Jesse Turner, Jr.

U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
624 Ninth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20425

Secretary

Cherryl Pigues

Dear Dr. Fletcher:

Treasurer

Phillip Duncan

The Black Business Association of Memphis would like to introduce ourselves and invite you to participate in our Tenth Annual BENNY AWARDS CEREMONY to be held 7:30 p.m Thursday November 2, 1995.

Delores Burrow,
LUTCF

Georgia Cannon

Anthony Cebrun,
J.D., M.P.H.

Michael Dugan

The Black Business Association is the largest association of its type in the Mid South with twenty-one years of service to our community. We are affiliated with the National Black Business Council located in Silver Springs Maryland and network with trade associations across the nation.

Leroy Hanna

McKinley Martin,
Ph.D.

Reginald Martin,
Ph.D.

Ernest Owens

The BENNY Awards (Black Economic Networking Needs You) is one of the most publicized business awards in the nation. We highlight the outstanding black businesses and the major corporations that go "above and beyond" the norm to purchase or support black businesses. In 1992, working in conjunction with Black Enterprise magazine's staff, we took our local awards to a higher level by acknowledging national leaders. [1992 Earl Graves, Black Enterprise Magazine; 1993 Donald Jackson, Central City Productions; 1994 William "Bill" Clay, AT&T-LA, and BBA-LA].

Vernice Vann

Ex-Officios

Sandra Burke
Clarence Mann
Kenneth Porter

Our national acknowledgements are given to prominent individuals who, on a national scale, are advocates, trailblazers, and proponents of increased business opportunities for black businesses. Your selection as a recipient was based on your long list of achievements in the area of civil rights and affirmation action.



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Memphis is the new battleground in the struggle for equal access and protected rights under the law. We completed the largest disparity in the nation and are working on governmental purchasing programs. State Representative Henri Brooks has been the catalyst for our Black Caucus to "push" the State of Tennessee to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. In light of the "back lash" to affirmation action and the Adarand case we need to know, where do we go from here and you are the most qualified in that area.

Many of us remember your speech in Memphis for a compliance conference and we have continued to watch and read your comments. Your presence with us at the Benny Awards would be encouragement to the "Troops" here in Memphis that are trying to follow in your footsteps. The media attention the Benny awards receives will also provide a platform your political agenda.

The Black Business Association will be responsible for the expenses incurred with your visit and your honorarium. We would like to discuss this with the appropriate staff as soon as possible. On behalf of the BBA, the City of Memphis, and Shelby County, we hope you can accept our warm, heartfelt invitation.

Respectfully,

Olivia Dobbins

Olivia Dobbins
President & CEO

cc: Congressman Harold Ford
City Mayor, W.W. Herenton
County Mayor, Jim Rout
Marc Jordan, President the Chamber
Kevin Cane, Pres. Convention & Visitors Bureau
State Representative Henri Brooks