

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2010

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Mourns Rev. Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Past Executive Director of NAACP

WASHINGTON—Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. mourns the loss of Rev. Dr. Benjamin Hooks. Hooks, died on April 15, 2010 at his home in Nashville, Tenn. A minister, attorney and civil rights leader, Hooks is best known for his work as the past executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Hooks was motivated to practice law by the racism that he encountered while serving in World War II. He earned his law degree in 1948 from DePaul University and promptly returned to Memphis vowing to fight segregation. He passed the Tennessee Bar examination and opened up his own law practice. Hooks subsequently became the first black judge in a southern trial court since Reconstruction, serving on the Tennessee Criminal Court. In 1977, he became executive director of the NAACP and is credited for significantly increasing the membership and financial support for the organization. Among his many other firsts, Hooks was appointed as the first black commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. Hooks was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

“The members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are deeply saddened by the loss of Rev. Dr. Benjamin Hooks,” said Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre, National President of Delta Sigma Theta. “Through his work as an attorney and his pivotal role in strengthening the NAACP, Dr. Hooks was a passionate leader who dedicated his life to justice and equality for all people. He will be greatly missed.”

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has over 250,000 members and more than 900 chapters worldwide. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs.

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