

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Benjamin L. Hooks Documentary Screening Wednesday At Le Moyne-Owen College;
Historically Black College Influenced Memphis Civil Rights Icon's Activism**

Duty of the Hour, a documentary about Memphis civil rights icon Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, will air Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Le Moyne-Owen College, where he was enrolled as a student in the 1940s. During that time, students at what was then called Le Moyne College created a student-led chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). That chapter became increasingly frustrated with the traditional NAACP Chapter and demanded a more aggressive approach by African-Americans to achieve racial equality in Memphis. The student-led NAACP greatly impressed upon Hooks the urgent need to achieve racial equality through political action.

This Wednesday, students at the historically black college will watch a private showing of *Duty of the Hour*, produced by The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. The film is the first to explore the life of Hooks, who rose from the streets of segregated Memphis to the national stage as a civil rights activist and high-level government official. His story is an exploration of this nation's long, complex and difficult history of race. How activists, politicians and the nation addressed racial, class and other tensions of the of the late 20th century, especially during the 1960s, provide insight on how we as a nation might address today's struggles involving, race, class, ethnicity, LGBTQ and other important issues of our day.

About 900 high school students from Shelby County Schools have watched the documentary, which also aired on KCET Los Angeles and is available for viewing at <https://www.kcet.org/shows/link-voices/episodes/duty-of-the-hour>.

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Founded in 1996 by the late civil rights activist Dr. Benjamin Hooks in partnership with University officials, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change is an interdisciplinary center at the

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University of Memphis whose archives include Hooks' personal papers, housed in Special Collections.
Visit www.memphis.edu/benhooks.