

# NAACP

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

*Monterey County Branch*

*mcbnaacp1049@gmail.com*

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Stephen E. Ross  
Ministers Award Breakfast**

*“Together We Win”*

*Honoring  
Mrs. Nancy Holt  
Community Activist*

# NAACP

**Saturday, February 28, 2026  
The Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton  
1441 Canyon Del Rey  
Seaside CA**

*We Welcome You!*

*Our Prayer is that you will enjoy this 28<sup>th</sup> Celebration of*

***Stephen E. Ross Ministers Award Breakfast***



# *Greetings from the President* **Monterey County Branch**

Dear Esteemed Clergy Members, Sisters, and  
Brothers in Faith,

On behalf of the Monterey County Branch NAACP, it is with great joy and anticipation that we welcome you to the 2026 Ministers/Stephen E. Ross Award Breakfast on February 28, 2026. We are honored to gather with such a remarkable assembly of spiritual leaders and dedicated members of our faith communities.

This event is a cherished opportunity for us to break bread together, share scripture, and strengthen the religious and spiritual bonds that unite us. In a time where collaboration and unity are essential, your presence here signifies a commitment to uplifting our communities through faith and action.

As we gather, may we be reminded of our collective mission to uplift one another and to work towards justice and equality for all. Together, we can empower our community, inspire change, and promote harmony and understanding.

We thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving our communities, and we look forward to a meaningful and uplifting morning filled with inspiration, connection, and shared purpose.

In faith and solidarity,

LYNDON R. TARVER  
President  
**Monterey County Branch NAACP**



## *In Honor of*

### **STEPHEN EDWARD ROSS**



Stephen Edward Ross was born in the Young Zion Community of Walker County TX, twelve miles west of Huntsville, the Walker County Seat. He was the sixth child born to Joe and Mattie Ross. He began his education at Young Zion Elementary School, under Ms. Phyllis Hightower. He graduated from Sam Houston High School in Huntsville TX. Stephen then attended Prairie View A&M College before joining the United States Army. In the armed services, Stephen rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and served in the North African and Middle East Campaign of World War II.

It was at Fort Ord CA that Stephen married his high school sweetheart, Rosie Lee McGowan. Upon completion of his tour of army duty, Stephen and Rosie decided to make the Monterey Peninsula home.

To their union were born six children, Jonnie Earl, Shirley Ann, Rosie Mae, Jimmy (dies at birth), Gloria Denise and Yvonne Terea.

Stephen graduated from Monterey Peninsula College in 1949. He earned his BA in planning and urban studies from Golden Gate University. In 1976 he entered Antioch College to pursue his master's degree in planning and urban studies and completed his Masters in 1979.

Stephen's involvement in the community was extensive. He was always active in the groups involved in helping the community. He served the people of Seaside for 16 consecutive years as a member of the Seaside City Council; as Mayor Pro Tem; and was elected the Mayor of Seaside during the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> years of his service with the City. He was a member of the NAACP and served in several positions for the Monterey County Branch. He was also a member of the Prince Hall Masons, Kiwanis Club, League of California Cities, and served on many boards and commissions. He was listed in the California Register of "Who's Who in the West" and "Who's Who Among Black Americans" to name a few. The City of Seaside named the park adjacent to the City Hall and the Library honoring Stephen in June 1988.

Stephen became an active member of the First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove, serving on their Trustee Board for many years. He was also a member of the Seaside Church of Religious Science. Stephen E. Ross passed away on September 3, 1986.

*“I Have a Dream”*  
*written by*  
*Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: for whites only.

We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream...



*Guest Speaker*  
**Rev. Jonathan Z. Butler**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**Jerusalem Baptist Church**



Rev. Dr. Jonathan Z. Butler is a pastor, scholar, and civic leader operating at the intersection of faith, public health, and social justice. He serves as President of the NAACP San Francisco Branch and First Vice President of the NAACP California Hawaii State Conference, providing strategic leadership on civil rights, health equity, and public accountability. He is the former inaugural Chair of the San Francisco Homelessness Oversight Commission, Vice Chair of the San Francisco

Interfaith Council, and Executive Director of the San Francisco African American Faith Based Coalition, where he has led large scale initiatives advancing food security, education, mental health, and community stabilization.

Dr. Butler holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Texas Southern University, a Master of Divinity from the Howard University School of Divinity, and a PhD in Medical Sociology from Howard University, with postdoctoral training at UCSF's Center for the Study of Adversity and Cardiovascular Disease. He serves as Research Faculty and Associate Director of the BOLD Health Initiative at UCSF and is Senior Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, known for translating moral vision into measurable community impact.



## *Stephen E. Ross Award Nancy Holt*



For over sixty years, Nancy Holt has been a devoted pillar of Monterey County. A military wife who lived around the world, she and her late husband, Reverend Fred Holt, made Salinas their permanent home.

Nancy began her distinguished career by earning an AA degree in Science from Fort Sam Medical School in Houston, Texas. She broke professional barriers in California, becoming the state's only Black Dental Therapist for the civil service in 1971. Her service, however, extends far beyond her profession. She is a life member of both The Links and the NAACP, having served in the Salinas Branch and continuing as a member of the Monterey County Branch. Through

The Links, she has led countless community drives and outreach efforts. At St. James CME Church, she has served as President of the Missionary Society and the Usher Board, and has been a source of sustenance for the homeless and scholarships for youth.

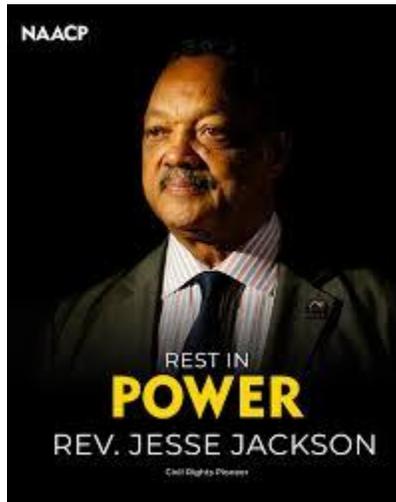
Known for her radiant smile, she has been a foster parent, a comfort to the sick, and a tireless advocate. Her numerous honors, including a Congressional Service Award and recognition from the California Senate, speak to a lifetime of unselfish devotion.

At her core, Nancy's greatest passions are her faith, her family, and her friends. From Alabama to Asia, she has left an indelible mark on the world and on every heart she has touched. Her life beautifully fulfills the scripture, "She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy... Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come." (Proverbs 31:20, 25). Mrs. Nancy Holt is truly a phenomenal woman of God.

## IN MEMORIAM

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

1941 – 2026



### Official Statement from NAACP National:

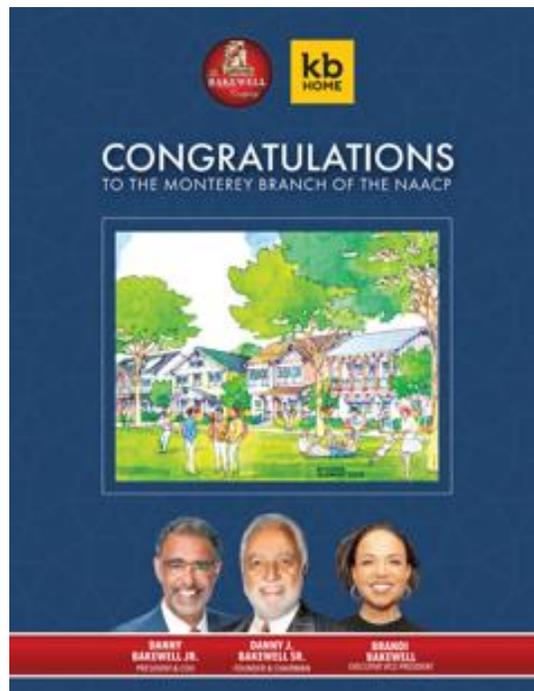
"The NAACP mourns the loss of a titan. Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. challenged this nation to live up to its highest ideals and reminded our movement that hope is both a strategy and a responsibility. A Spingarn Medalist and a two-time presidential candidate, his legacy as a fierce advocate for justice is etched into the fabric of American history."

"Reverend Jesse Jackson was not only a civil rights icon—he was family to the NAACP. His work advanced Black America at every turn. He challenged this nation to live up to its highest ideals, and he reminded our movement that hope is both a strategy and a responsibility. His historic run for president inspired millions and brought race to the forefront of American politics."

## Key Themes of the Tributes

- **A "Standard-Bearer":** The NAACP characterized Jackson as one of the last standard-bearers of the generation that took up the mantle directly from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- **"Keep Hope Alive":** National and local branches repeatedly cited his famous mantra, noting that his life's work provided a "blueprint for modern coalition-building."
- **Spingarn Medalist:** The organization highlighted that Jackson was a recipient of the **Spingarn Medal**, the NAACP's highest honor, awarded for his outstanding achievements as a global statesman and activist.

**Leon W. Russell**, *Chairman* **Derrick Johnson**, *President & CEO* **Karen Boykin Towns**, *Vice Chair*



## *Master of Ceremony Elder Rory Gaines*



Elder Rory Gaines was born June 22, 1989 in Seaside, CA. Early in life he gained a love for music that blossomed into a lifelong passion. Through that passion he was able to connect with God and people through music. It is his belief that both God and music can connect all people no matter their background, culture or language.

In 2019, he answered the call to ministry at Emmanuel Church Of God In Christ under Dr. Eugene Jones. After years of service and training there he was ordained as an Elder in 2024. He currently serves as Minister Of Music at Mt Nebo Baptist Church in Salinas, CA under Pastor Anthony Davis.

As a native to Seaside who loves to serve, he's been blessed to serve the community through various organizations and churches. The Village Project Inc, the Umoja Club at Monterey Peninsula College, Emmanuel COGIC are just a few. His love for God and people bring an uncommon empathy to an uncommon calling.

He served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 2014 to 2022 and obtained the rank of Corporal. He specialized in the Communications and Infantry occupational fields.

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### *Recipients of the Stephen E. Ross Award*

Mr. Clarence Lucas  
Mr. E. Walker James  
Ms. Ira Lively  
Mr. Alfred Glover  
Rev. Samuel Gaskins  
Mr. Sam Karas  
Rev. H.H. Lusk  
Mrs. Ruthie Watts  
Mr. Darryl L. Choates  
Senator Bill Monning

Mr. Lance McClair  
Mr. Lee Toler  
Mr. Henry Hopkins  
Mr. Billy DeBerry  
Mr. Richard Criley  
Mr. William Campbell  
Mr. Charlie Drummond  
Mr. Fred Holt  
Mr. Cecil Bindel  
Bishop W.W. Hamilton

Mr. Sherman Smith  
Mr. Kenneth Hamilton  
Mr. Frank Steel  
Mr. Thomas R. Gaines  
Mr. Charles Barnes  
Mr. Cambrel Marshall  
Mrs. Helen B. Rucker  
Rev. Richard Nance  
Mr. Mel Mason  
Mrs. Regina Mason

## *We are Asking You to Join the NAACP*

The famous case that ended legal segregation in this country – Brown vs. Board of Education – was brought, argued and won by NAACP lawyers. Rosa Parks' famous act of civil disobedience was not a chance occurrence as many erroneously believe. It was a coordinated action she undertook as secretary of the Montgomery NAACP.

It was the NAACP that first sounded the national alarm regarding voter suppression that began in earnest in 2010 as a backlash to the election of Barack Obama as our first Black president in 2008. Our record-breaking voter registration efforts in 2012 overcame those suppression tactics and ensured a second term for the incumbent president.

Fast-forward to 2025 and we are now experiencing a great rise in identity-based hate crimes and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation along with a resurgence of anti-democratic white supremacy, the greatest roll-back of civil rights and the most coordinated attack on voting rights since the 1960s.

The NAACP is leading the fight against all of these trends and your membership assists in funding these efforts.

### *Deeper Involvement*

Simply purchasing a membership is very helpful to the organization. But the work of the NAACP is done in a committee and to be frank, there is more work than workers!

Simply apply online by visiting our website at <https://montereynaacp.org/membership-and-life-membership/> Under "affiliation" put "1049 Monterey Branch."



***Thank you for supporting our local NAACP!***



*To Nancy Holt  
From The  
Monterey County Branch*

## *Stephen E. Ross Ministers Award Breakfast*

*“The Church’s Role in Today’s Civil Rights Movement;  
Keeping the Dream Alive!”*

### *Celebration Program*

Master of Ceremony Elder Rory Gaines  
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Salinas, CA

Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem

*“Lift Every Voice”*

Black National Anthem Ashley Jones

Invocation Elder Rory Gaines  
Mt Nebo Baptist Church, Salinas, CA

*~ Breakfast Served ~*

Greetings/Welcome Lyndon Tarver  
President, Monterey County Branch  
#1049, NAACP

Introduction of Guest Speaker Lyndon Tarver

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Jonathan Z. Butler  
President of the NAACP San Francisco Branch

Musical Selection Brenda J. Thomas

*~ Award Presentation ~*

Stephen E. Ross Award Presenter  
Award Recipient

Mel Mason  
Nancy Holt

Closing Remarks

Lyndon Tarver  
President, Monterey County Branch

Benediction

Rev. Jimmy Welch, Pastor

Thank you to the Minister's Breakfast Committee

Alicia Gaines – Chair  
Anita Crawley  
Dr. Faye Jenkins-Bellow  
Edd Armstrong  
Lyndon Tarver  
Michelle Adams  
Reginald Garnett  
Robert Brown  
Tymeesa Rutledge



**NAACP**

# NAACP

## *Monterey County Branch*

### 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Monterey County Branch #1049

Lyndon Tarver, Branch President  
Dr. Faye Jenkins-Bellow, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Tymeesa Rutledge, Secretary  
Reginald Garnett, Treasurer

Debeliah Anthony  
Edward Armstrong  
Anita Crawley  
Linwood Eady  
Dr. Marshall Fulbright  
Alicia Gaines  
Barbara Johnson  
Rev. Eugene Jones  
Jesse Perez  
Jacqueline C. Simon  
John Smith  
Ruthie Watts  
Wes White

# NAACP

Rick L. Callender, ESQ.  
President – California/Hawaii State Conference

# *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

[James Weldon Johnson](#)

1871 – 1938

James Weldon Johnson, born in Florida in 1871, was a national organizer for the NAACP and an author of poetry and nonfiction. Perhaps best known for the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing." He also wrote several poetry collections and novels, often exploring racial identity and the African American folk tradition.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first performed in public on February 12, 1900, by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida.





**NAACP MONTEREY COUNTY BRANCH 1049**

**28<sup>th</sup> Ministers/Stephen E. Ross Award Breakfast**

**February 28, 2026**