



# 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama State Conference Convention 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Speakers

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## **Benard H. Simelton, Sr.**

**President  
State Conference of the Alabama NAACP**

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Benard H. Simelton Sr. was born in Tiplersville, MS and attended College at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS. He graduated with a B.S. degree in Sociology in 1976 and received a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Dakota 1981.

Benard is a member of Indian Creek PB Church where he serves as a Deacon.

Benard served 23 years in the Air Force and retired in 2000 as a Lieutenant Colonel. His most rewarding assignment was serving on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) negotiation team in Geneva Switzerland which led to the signing of the START Treaty between the US and countries of the Former Soviet Union. Some of his military awards include; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.

He is a life member of the NAACP and served as President of Limestone County for six years and is in his fifth year as President of Alabama State Conference of the NAACP. Since joining the NAACP in Alabama, he has received the Regional Medgar Evers, Regional Kelly M. Alexander, and Regional Director Award and numerous branch awards.

Benard was a founding member of the Athens Limestone Library Foundation Board and he also served over ten years on the Community Action Partnership for Huntsville, Madison and Limestone Counties.

He is also Scoutmaster for Troop 947 and received the District Whitney M. Young Award. Benard is an active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc and has held several chapter leadership positions in the graduate and undergraduate chapters throughout the nation.

He is married to the former Elaine Erves of Vicksburg, MS. They are the proud parents of Bernard Jr., Emergency Medicine Doctor in Brooklyn, NY and Eric a Medical Device District Sales Manager in Miami, FL.