

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2001

**NAACP MOURNS THE LOSS OF DARRELL EVERS, SON OF MEDGAR EVERS
AND MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS**

Kweisi Mfume, President and CEO, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Chairman Julian Bond today expressed their deep sorrow over the death of Darrell Kenyatta Evers the oldest child of the late Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. Darrell Evers died Sunday, February 18, 2001 at the USC Norris Cancer Center, Los Angeles, California following a battle with colon cancer. He was 47.

Mfume said, "This is a personal loss for the family but also a loss for the men and women who remember Darrell as a 9 year old boy who became a man overnight wearing the mantle of leadership after witnessing his father's murder. The Evers family continues to endure with triumph over personal pain."

Bond said, "Mrs. Evers-Williams and her family know our thoughts, prayers and support are with them at this difficult time."

Darrell Evers, along with his mother, brother and sister witnessed the assassination of his father in the carport of their home on June 13, 1963. Byron de la Beckwith was eventually convicted of the murder after three trials over a period of 30 years.

Darrell is survived by his wife of one year, Lauren; Keanan, his son by a previous marriage; his mother NAACP Chairman Emeritus Myrlie Evers-Williams; his sister Reena Evers-Everett; his brother James Van Dyke Evers and other relatives. The family is asking that contributions be sent to the Medgar Evers Institute in lieu of flowers. The Medgar Evers Institute is located at 15 South West Colorado, Suite 310, Bend, Oregon 97702.

Founded in 1909, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

CONTACT: NAACP Office of Communications 410.486.9227

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