

## Rev. Benjamin and Louise Craft, Jr. Education Scholarship



The Jacksonville Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will award **two** Rev. Benjamin and Louise Craft, Jr. Education Scholarships to support the leadership potential of Jacksonville and Sherwood, Arkansas students.

Each scholarship will be in the amount of **\$500.00**.

Candidates for these scholarships must be a Jacksonville or Sherwood, Arkansas resident attending Jacksonville High School, Sylvan Hills High School or Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School. The high school graduating senior must have a minimum grade point average of **3.0**. A high school transcript or an official letter from the school indicating the required GPA must be attached to the application.

\*Candidates must also demonstrate outstanding community service or volunteer performance in the Central Arkansas area. Applications must be submitted no later than **April 16, 2023**. Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than **April 26, 2023**.

**The scholarship award will be made payable to the applicant.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Rose Rains with any questions at 501-533-9384 or [education@naacpjvark.org](mailto:education@naacpjvark.org).

You may email your application and essay to [education@naacpjvark.org](mailto:education@naacpjvark.org) or mail it to the following address by **April 16th**:

**NAACP - Jacksonville Branch #6289  
Attention: Education Committee  
PO Box 6444  
Jacksonville, AR 72078**

Best regards,

**Rose Rains**

2023 Scholarship Chair



Rev. Benjamin Craft Jr was born on February 5, 1939, to the late Benjamin Sr and Margaret Fulton Craft in Jacksonville, Arkansas. He attended and graduated from Pulaski County Public School.

In July of 1953, Benjamin married Louise Johnson, they were married for 51 years until his death on September 11, 2008.

Rev. Craft was a man of God, loved his family, (Craft and his wife Louise had 6 children), and was always trying to help make things better for the people that entered his life. Throughout his life he held many positions and served them well. He was called into the ministry in 1979; he pastored Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Little Rock for 18 years, then he started the Main Street Bible Church which he pastored until his passing. It is hard to put his life in a short biography; his dedication to his wife, family, church and community; the positions and titles he had are too numerous to tell, some of the positions that he held are; he was the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the NAACP Jacksonville branch, which was organized in November of 1988. During his presidency he was successful in getting the Jacksonville Civil Service Commission to revise the tests given to police and firefighters, which resulted in the hiring of the first black police and firefighters. Also, through Craft's leadership, attention was focused upon the city's utility department's discriminatory practices in granting promotions. The NAACP wrote, "There are many injustices too numerous to print, that Craft called to the attention of the proper authorities. For his devoted service in promoting civil rights issues, Craft is now being saluted as a "Great Warrior", Craft's accomplishments left an indelible mark upon the community. "

Rev. Craft received countless commendations, awards and certificates of achievement and appreciation; throughout his life he made a lasting impact on the lives of people he encountered. Many people benefited from his bold and aggressive spirit to go against the grain and attack the injustices that were being done to humankind.

May their legacy live on!

## **Essay Requirements**

The applicant must type an essay that answers the following:

1. Give an introduction of yourself.
2. What are your greatest strengths?
3. What are your educational and career goals?
4. Explain your community service or volunteer experience.
5. Why should we select you to receive a scholarship?

Essay design:

- Double spaced with 1-inch margins
- Use size 12 font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- Essay should be no more than 3 pages
- Essay must be a minimum of 750 words

A final decision will be based on the highest cumulative score based on community service or volunteer activities, demonstrated impact of volunteer efforts, and continued commitment to education and leadership.

By submitting a scholarship application, you affirm that the information provided in said application is true and complete to the best of your knowledge.

## **Scholarship Application Checklist**

- ✓ Application
- ✓ High School transcript
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ College Acceptance Letter

**Scholarship Application**

**Applicant Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First M.I.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Apartment/Unit #*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State ZIP Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ High School.: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ **(Please submit a school transcript/letter from school)**

**Education**

Clubs/Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Honors/recognition: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_