

Bessie Bordenave was born and raised in the town of Guilford in Howard County, Maryland to the late Roger and Abbie Dorsey. She graduated from Harriet Tubman High School, Simpsonville, Maryland and from the Atlantic Business College, Washington, D.C.

She is currently employed with the Federal Communications Commission, Columbia, Maryland as a Telecommunications Analyst. During her career, she has worked at the White House during the Lyndon B. Johnson Administration; served as the Administrative Assistant to Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks, when he served as a Commissioner with the Federal Communications Commission; served as Confidential/Administrative Assistant to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, when he was the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and worked in Los Angeles, California, for the Social Security Administration as a Contact Representative, Field Representative and Supervisor. As of April, 2016, she have worked more than 50 years with the Federal Government.

Bessie served as co-advisor for the Howard County NAACP Youth Council from 1989 – 1993, under the guidance and mentorship of Mrs. Dorothy Craft. In 1993, she was elected to serve as the advisor and has been serving in that capacity since that time. She is currently serving as the State Advisor for the Maryland State NAACP Youth & College Division. She has served as Adult Representative to the youth on the NAACP National Board of Director.

Her compassion is working with youth in helping them become outstanding citizens in the community. She provides training, mentoring and support to the youth. In 2005, she spearheaded the drive to get 100 backpacks, mostly donated by Local 400, United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Minority Coalition, filled with school supplies and shipped to young victims of the Hurricane Katrina, in Louisiana.

The Howard County NAACP Youth Council is the number one NAACP Youth Council in the State of Maryland and in 2006, the youth council received 1st place Award for Outstanding Youth Council of the Year, the best youth council in the country. At the 2006, NAACP National Convention, the youth council won all of the youth awards that were given at that convention: Gloster B. Current Award; Medgar Evers Leadership Award (High School) Medgar Evers Leadership Award (Middle School). Also, at that convention, Ms. Bordenave received 1st Place Award for Outstanding Youth Advisor and the Jondell Johnson Membership Award.

The youth council conducted an Adopt-a-Program, focusing on issues facing the community, with events that focused on; Health, Education; Political Action. They conducted a community Block Party; Meet the Candidates with 46 local and state candidates in attendance; Health Fair with more than 25 local and State Health vendors participating; Education Roundup – college students made presentations and presented more than 50 bags of school supplies to the youth; Thanksgiving Event, providing 25

baskets for families in need and a Holiday Celebration providing 25 baskets and 25 bags of toys for families as well as a cooked meal for more than 100 in attendance. Ms. Bordenave also was instrumental in helping to implement the NAACP National Day of College Prep for high school students, serving as the coordinator for the State of Maryland.

She participates in local school or organization events which include: Howard County Park & Recreation, Howard County Drug Free Organization, the PATH Organization, Smoke Free Howard County; Get Active Howard County; Howard County Freedom Health Walk; and many other organizations; Howard County Policy Department Minority Police Association; Faces of our Children Sickle Cell Organization.

Through the efforts of Ms. Bordenave, in 2012 the youth council was recognized for their outstanding work in the NAACP as the recipient of the Baltimore Ravens "Honor Row". They have received congratulatory letters, resolutions, certificates, proclamation and awards from local politicians and organizations for their outstanding leadership in the community.

Under the leadership of Ms. Bordenave the youth council has sponsored their annual "Feed the Hungry" event, providing a meal, clothing, blankets, shoes, toiletries and food to the less fortunate and seniors.

Ms. Bordenave encourages the youth to give back the community, by volunteering at local events. She also encourages the youth to bring their family and friends to NAACP meetings and events to learn more about the mission of the NAACP and know the history of the NAACP. She encourages the youth to attend the NAACP, local, state, regional and national meetings and conventions. She includes the parents in the monthly meetings and events, encouraging them to assist with the youth council programs.

She has served on the Board of Directors for Preservation Howard County, and is currently Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Ridgely's Run Community Center, and President of the Harriet Tubman Foundation.

She is the mother of two daughters, one granddaughter, one grandson and two grandsons. She has one sister and two brothers. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Guilford.

Bessie Bordenave has a genuine interest and concern for the youth, not only giving of her time, energy, but also providing financial assistance to the youth.