NAACP
Seattle King County #1136

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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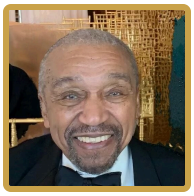
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Seattle King County NAACP to Honor Dorothy and Lacy Steele at "Carrying the Legacy" Tribute on December 3

Free community dinner and program at First AME Church falls on what would have been Lacy Steele's 95th birthday



Dorothy L. Steele
1934–2025



Lacy Steele
1931–2025 · Branch President 1972–1998



Carolyn Riley-Payne
40+ years of ACT-SO leadership

SEATTLE — The Seattle King County NAACP Branch #1136 will host *Carrying the Legacy: A Tribute to Dorothy & Lacy Steele* on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1522 14th Avenue in Seattle. The evening honors a couple who gave more than four decades to civil rights, education and faith in the Puget Sound region. Admission and dinner are free; registration is required at **carryingthelegacy.pplx.app**.

Lacy Steele served as president of the Seattle Branch NAACP for 26 years, from 1972 to 1998, and on the NAACP National Board of Directors for more than 18 years. He led the effort to desegregate Seattle Public Schools through negotiation rather than a court battle. He was also instrumental, with the assistance of others, in naming a Seattle street and King County itself for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A Korean War veteran, he became the first African American Manager of Boeing's Defense & Space Group Quality Organization and personally registered thousands of voters.

Dorothy Steele was a founding member of The Benefit Guild, Inc., formed in 1963 by Black women in Seattle to provide scholarships, cultural enrichment and community engagement for young Black children during segregation. The Guild brought speakers including Harry Belafonte and the Rev. Dr. Wyatt T. Walker, a confidant of Dr. King. A Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP, she served as Lacy's unofficial Branch secretary throughout his presidency. At First AME she led Stewardess Board II for 20 years, coordinated weddings for more than 20 years and served on the Scholarship Committee. She also worked 35 years at Boeing, including on two presidential aircraft.

The program will also recognize Carolyn Riley-Payne under the theme "A Legacy Continued: Lacy Steele and Carolyn Riley-Payne," celebrating a partnership through the NAACP's ACT-SO program that shaped generations of young scholars and leaders. The Steeles were married for 72 years. Lacy passed on May 20, 2025, and Dorothy on July 24, 2025.

EVENT	Carrying the Legacy: A Tribute to Dorothy & Lacy Steele
DATE	Thursday, December 3, 2026
LOCATION	First AME Church, 1522 14th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122
SCHEDULE	5:00 PM doors open, historic display & networking · 5:20–6:30 PM community dinner · 6:45 PM tribute program
COST	Free admission and dinner · Register at carryingthelegacy.pplx.app
PRESENTED BY	Religious Affairs Committee · Program Coordinator Rev. Dr. Linda Smith

About the Seattle King County NAACP: Branch #1136 works to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. P.O. Box 22148, Seattle, WA 98122 · 206-324-6600.

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