NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

**Bloomington-Normal Branch** P.O. Box 925 Normal, IL 61761-0925 309.287.1954

**Mr. Henry Gay Sr. Scholarship**

Henry first joined the local NAACP in 1951.  In 1968 he became the local branch secretary, a position he held into the 21st century.   He participated in local struggles for equal access to housing, business services and education.  In the 1950s and 1960s civil rights advocates would march from local churches downtown.  He remembers counseling marchers to stay peaceful and “not talk back” if they were confronted.   “You could see things changing, we came a long way,” he remembered.  He credits the local NAACP and having Merlin Kennedy appear as a “Black Santa” in the Christmas Parade as an event that helped boost local efforts, along with persistent advocacy.  He credited white allies like Jack Porter and Ralph Smith for their support in these efforts.

Henry has been honored by the NAACP, the Bloomington Human Relations Commission, and others.  He’s made the “long, persistent march” with his head held high and his “eyes on the prize” of dignity and fair treatment for all. Henry has advice and counsel for all who will listen.  “Try to be somebody – get a job – treat people right.  … You can learn a lot if you listen. …. You need an education, then you can get any job you want.  You must vote; don’t complain to me if you aren’t going to vote.  Me and the Man upstairs made it.”

Requirements for the scholarship is divided into five areas: 1) Must reside in Bloomington-Normal IL and plan to attend a 2 or 4 year accredited college or trade school, 2) Application, transcript, and two recommendation letters 3) Essay, 4) Send a head shot picture of yourself, and 5) Attendance at the MAPS Joint Scholarship Reception, Saturday, June 8, 2024. The students’ performance in all five areas will determine scholarship recipients.

**Application Deadline:** Must be Emailed to bnnaacp.secretary@gmail.com by April 2, 2024.

**Qualifications:** African American high school seniors residing in Bloomington-Normal, IL., who demonstrate leadership skills, communication, and embodies the spirit of the NAACP mission and goals. Selection will be based on the students’ excellence in community service, academic ability, and their understanding of the NAACP mission. Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA out of a 5.0 scale or equivalent and must be attending a 2 or 4 year accredited college or accredited trade school.

**Recognition:** Must attend MAPS Joint Scholarship Reception, Saturday, June 8, 2024 (Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church). Provide a headshot picture, if awarded, will be used for announcement of award.

**Proof of Registration:** The scholarship will be awarded during your first semester of college once confirmation of registration is received via email by August 31, 2024.

**Submit all REQUIRED ITEMS**: 1) completed application, transcript, 2 letters of recommendation from a teacher/counselor/school administrative staff or a church/organization leader, 3) college/university or trade school acceptance letter, and 4) an essay (minimum of 500 words) with supporting documentation & headshot picture.

**Essay Topic:** *As a youth, do you feel our democracy is broken? Give examples to support your answer and how can you as a youth amplify your voice to make a positive difference in our communities.* (minimum of 500 words).

For questions contact Willie Holton Halbert, Scholarship Chairperson @ 309-287-1954 or email her at dime54@aol.com.

 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

 **Bloomington-Normal Branch** P.O. Box 925 Normal, IL 61761-0925

 **Mr. Henry Gay Sr. Scholarship Application**

THE APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED. If additional pages are needed, please attach the additional pages to this application form. Submit all required items: 1) Must reside in Bloomington-Normal, IL and plan to attend a 2 or 4 year accredited college or trade school, 2) Application, transcript, and two recommendation letters 3) Essay, 4) Send a head shot picture of yourself, and 5) Attendance at the MAPS Joint Scholarship Reception, Saturday, June 8, 2024. The students’ performance in all areas will determine scholarship recipients. Note: Essay a minimum of 500 words) with supporting documentation & headshot picture.

**APPLICATIONS EMAIL ONLY:** **bnnaacp.secretary@gmail.com** **by April 2, 2024**. Questions about the scholarship or application process may be directed to Willie Holton Halbert, Scholarship Committee Chair at dime54@aol.com,

1. **Application Information**

Last Name First Name MI Date of Birth

Address Apt.# City State Zip

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Phone Number Email Address

Grade Point Average: Minimum of a 3.0 GPA out of a 5.0 scale or equivalent. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Parent/Guardian Information**

Last Name First Name MI

Address if different from Above

1. **Extracurricular activities in school, community, and church. Include any special honors or awards.**
2. **Work History**
3. **Volunteer Work History**
4. **College/University or trade school you plan to attend. Please provide a letter of acceptance or other pertinent information. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How did you become aware of this scholarship? School \_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and correct and that any misrepresentation or omission of facts on any part will be justification for denial of this scholarship. I understand that the funds must be used for educational purposes, i.e. tuition, housing, books and/or supplies during the 2024-2025 academic terms. I also understand that all information provided is confidential and will only be released to the NAACP Scholarship Committee in conjunction with the scholarship program. I understand that the scholarship will be awarded during your nextsemester of college after confirmation of registration is received via email to:** **bnnaacp.secretary@gmail.com** **by August 31, 2024. Failure to do so will forfeit my scholarship.**

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Applicant’s Signature Date Parent/Guardian Signature Date

PLEASE ENSURE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKET:

Completed Application \_\_\_ Transcript \_\_\_\_ 2 Recommendations \_\_\_ Essay \_\_\_\_ Headshot\_\_\_

College/University/Trade School Acceptance Letter \_\_\_\_

**(Office Only)**

Emailed Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Completed Application \_\_\_ Transcript \_\_\_\_ 2 Recommendations \_\_\_ Essay \_\_\_\_ Headshot\_\_\_

College/University/Trade School Acceptance Letter \_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Revised date: 1/28/2024