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400 Years of African American History Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEDERAL COMMISSION NAMES EXECUTIVE TEAM

Washington, DC. October 28, 2019 — Per annual option afforded to the 400 Years of African American History Commission as authorized by Public Law 115-102, the Commission is pleased to announce election results naming the following executive leadership to go into effect on November 1, 2019.



Chair

Dr. Rex M. Ellis serves as the Associate Director Emeritus for Curatorial Affairs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) at the Smithsonian Institution. He was the first African American Vice President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He is author of two books. His presentations, lectures, workshops, and consultancies focus on public programming, diversity, interpretation, and African American History and culture.



Vice Chair

New Orleans-born and nationally renowned artist, **Mr. Ted T. Ellis**, has captured and created over 5,000 paintings of the life of African Americans for more than 25 years. Each painting unravels a mystery, tells a story, illustrates hidden meaning, or pays homage to forebearers by placing Black experiences front and center.



2nd Vice Chair

Mr. Ronnie Carson is the owner and CEO of the largest network of freestanding black lung centers in the nation, the Carson Black Lung Education and Research Centers in Virginia and Kentucky. His roots and preservation of black history also chronicles a magnificent family and local past. With his wife, Jill, Mr. Carson also co-founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in 1988, a repository of historic artifacts and a nonprofit housed in a building donated by Lee County which once served as a segregated schoolhouse.



Treasurer

Dr. Myron L. Pope currently serves as the Chief of Strategic Engagement for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services where he is the executive team member responsible for establishing, maintaining, and assessing external partnerships. With over 26 years of higher education experience, he previously served as the Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Central Oklahoma from 2013 – 2019.

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About the 400 Years African American History Commission

Authorized by Public Law 115-102 signed by President Donald Trump on January 8, 2018, the 400 Years African American History Commission has been authorized as of October 2018 to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States; to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African- Americans since 1619; to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; to educate the public about the arrival of Africans in the United States; and to encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand understanding and appreciation.