

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

NAACP

*THE FIERCE
URGENCY OF* **NOW**

79th Annual Freedom Fund Awards and Membership Dinner



September 25th

Casa Mia at the Hawthorne
2421 Berlin Tpke, Berlin, CT



Tracey McCain

Channel 3 Morning Anchor
Master of Ceremonies



Platinum Sponsor
Liberty Bank

Silver Sponsor
American Eagle Financial Credit Union

Bronze Sponsors
Dale Development
Eversource
McClam Funeral Home
Middlesex Health





Branch History

In 1946 the Portland/Middletown NAACP Branch was formed by a group of concerned African Americans from both towns. Mr. Roosevelt Steele, a Portland resident, became the first president. The Branch thrived for several years taking a stand for the rights of African Americans during the early days of the civil rights movement. Early presidents were Mr. Charles Ghent, Mr. Roosevelt Steele, Sr., Rev. William Davage, and Captain Edward Jackson.

It was years later, when Captain Edward B. Jackson, retired member of the Middletown Police Force and Mrs. Reba Moses, a community activist, met with Mr. Willie Walton to talk about forming a branch of the NAACP in Middletown. After meetings with Mr. Benjamin Andrews, President of the CT State Conference of NAACP Branches and nearly 100 community members, the branch was re-established. Mr. Willie Walton became the first president, serving three years. In its earlier days, the branch published a "Watchdog" weekly paper. James "Cup" Moody served as its' first editor. The branch was responsible for the establishment of the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and formation of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee of Greater Middletown, Inc. The Committee eventually became a separate 501(c)3 entity.

One of the branch's earliest issues, uniting the city residents, stemmed from the death of a homeless man who froze to death. Both Black and white citizens came together and marched in protest over the lack of housing. The group demonstrated for three days. In the end, the Eddy Shelter and other shelters were opened in Middlesex County, and they remain to this day.

The work of the Branch, encompassing 16 towns county-wide, continues to be rooted in racial equity, civic engagement, and supportive policies and institutions for all marginalized people. We advocate and serve as a resource for women and children during difficult times, stand for students' right to equitable education experiences, and seek solutions to health disparities that plague our community.

The following individuals have served as President of the Middlesex County Branch since its e-establishment: Willie Walton, James Moore, Roland Cockfield, Debra Hopkins, David Roane, Timothy Franklin, Roxanne Aaron-Selph, Rosa Browne, and Faith Jackson, with Ms. Jackson serving multiple nonconsecutive terms), and Anita Ford Saunders, APR, currently president for the 2023 – 2025 term.



September 25, 2025

On behalf of the Freedom Fund Team, Executive Committee, and members of the Middlesex County Branch, I welcome you to the 79th Middlesex County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards and Membership Dinner.

This year the theme of the 116th National NAACP Convention was *The Fierce Urgency of Now*. At the convention, history was made. This was the first time a sitting president was not invited to speak at the National NAACP Convention.

Elections matter and eight months into this dystopian world, slowing down is not an option. **Now** has never held more immediacy. We were gob smacked by project 2025. Its clandestine beginnings have turned into the lawlessness of the land. This is what happens when the rule of law is not followed, and others run roughshod over democracy and liberty.

This situation seems hopeless, but citizens are not sitting down. More than 331 lawsuits have been filed by regular Americans against Trump. Over 194 court orders have blocked his actions. NAACP National President and CEO Derek Johnson challenged us, "We have to be willing to go to court." History will remember that we did not sit down. We fought to save our democracy.

This evening, we honor trailblazers and courageous warriors who colored outside the lines to stand for what's good and right. They may not have started out to make history, but their courage continues to leave an indelible mark in our County.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Anita Ford Saunders, APR". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anita Ford Saunders | APR, President
she/her/hers
Middlesex County NAACP 2018-B
P.O. Box 378
Middletown, CT 06457
info@middlesexctnaacp.org

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

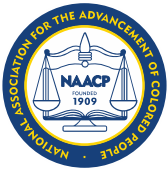
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.



NAACP

Derrick Johnson

*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

September 25, 2025

NAACP MIDDLESEX COUNTY BRANCH:

I am pleased to congratulate you on the occasion of your 79th Annual Freedom Fund Awards and Membership Dinner. Thank you for your faithful service and commitment. It remains my privilege to work alongside members, volunteers, and leaders of our tremendous NAACP branches and state conferences.

I greet you with deep gratitude and resolve, recognizing particularly at this point in time the gravity of our work – our response to perhaps the greatest calling of this generation. We are witnessing a total demolition of our democracy and being force-fed a lie that to make America great again, we have to make America hate again. We have seen the passing of one of the worst pieces of legislation in recent history that will devastate communities all across our country, with the exception of the wealthiest who will receive over \$4 trillion in tax breaks.

We see the rise of authoritarianism and the suppression of freedom, progress, equity, and justice for which many whom we love and revere gave their very lives. We are seeing fear manifested – fear of minds that think freely and institutions that look like America. Maps are being redrawn to silence our voices, laws rewritten to suppress our votes, and our history being recasted as fiction. The battle is raging to redefine the role of government to serve only the wealthy few.

This moment – this resurgence of division, fear, and state-sanctioned discrimination – is not new or insurmountable. Throughout our history, advancements by Black Americans have triggered individuals, institutions, and systems; from the rise of the Ku Klux Klan to the destruction of Black Wall Street, all the way to the increase in modern Jim Crow policies meant to curb our votes and silence our voices. During and after the Civil Rights Era – and still today, our communities respond through organized, mobilized resistance. The Black response has always been constant, creative, and adaptive; even in the face of adversity and a hostile political climate.

The Fierce Urgency of Now, echoed from our 116th NAACP National Convention, means we cannot wait for another generation to do what only we can do. We have launched lawsuits across the country to protect our freedom – not just to vote but to live with dignity and security – and we've already secured major victories. Black communities are not dumping grounds for corporate ambition. Our children will breathe clean air, live without fear of environmental harm, and thrive in neighborhoods free from toxic neglect. We must organize and fund our freedom like never before. We must march, register, protest, legislate, educate, and mobilize like never before. We must demand not just representation but reckoning; not just opportunity but ownership; not just visibility but victory. The opposition is loud, but the movement must be louder. This is an American movement, a fight for humanity and the very soul of this nation. We are built and tested for this. We will do this together, because when we fight – we win!

Peace and Power,

Derrick Johnson



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

4805 Mt Hope Drive • Baltimore MD 21215-3297 • 410.580.5777 • 877.622.2798 • naacp.org



NAACP

Leon W. Russell

*Chairman
National Board of Directors*

September 25, 2025

NAACP MIDDLESEX COUNTY BRANCH

Greetings:

Congratulations to the NAACP Middlesex County Branch as you come together for your 79th Annual Freedom Fund Awards and Membership Dinner. Thank you for being the champions for change that power the great and urgent work of the NAACP.



Our 116th National Convention was aptly themed, *“The Fierce Urgency of Now.”* As Black people, our fate has always been a major part of the history of this country’s development, and *Now*, we find ourselves and our nation in an existential crisis with those who would propose to determine how we are to be counted and the proposal is less than a whole. Like the Civil War, the war at hand is very much about us; make no mistake, we are the pivotal issue. American History, also Black History, is replete with stories of Africans in America asserting their constitutional rights, from the post-Civil War Reconstruction era through the Jim Crow era, and the Supreme Court often being given the opportunity to help make this a more perfect union. We have fought efforts branding us as second-class citizens with no rights. American History is one of lynching and other extra judicial experiences across the nation aimed at keeping Black people in “their place.” Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is not original to this time but goes back well over a century ago after the 1908 Springfield race riot and prior to the 1909 birth of the NAACP. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”* Our founders stepped up to deal with the fierce urgency of the early 20th century and created the nation’s premier civil rights and social justice advocacy organization, the NAACP. How will we respond to the Fierce Urgency of Now?

Although those in the highest offices of government appear confused about the constitutional concept of citizenship, we recognize the root. Racism, bigotry, mean spiritedness, and cruelty are dismantling years of settled law and seeking to reinterpret the Constitution to satisfy one man’s personal interest and intentions of turning the nation from a representative democracy into an authoritarian dictatorship, benefiting only the wealthy few. Our mission with respect to expanding civil and human rights has not changed, and we will never be mere subjects. We have a history of fighting against the tide of hate and bigotry, as the nation’s most vocal advocate for our democratic rights, as protectors of our hard fought and won civil rights and social gains. Our focus is our vision of an inclusive society with no kings, emperors, or dictators. We will not be defeated by otherism. We are one nation under God (despite how we worship) indivisible with liberty and justice for ALL. We are the NAACP – the nation’s premier civil rights and social justice advocacy organization – committed to urgently marching on until victory is won!

Yours in the struggle,

Leon W. Russell

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

4805 Mt Hope Drive • Baltimore MD 21215-3297 • 410.580.5777 • 877.622.2798 • naacp.org



Scot X. Esdaile
State President
NAACP National Board Member

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the Middlesex County NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

This year's theme, "*The Fierce Urgency of Now*," speaks to both the urgent challenges and the transformative opportunities of this pivotal moment. It reminds us that meaningful progress requires more than good intentions—it calls for bold action and unwavering dedication. Justice is not realized through silence or inaction. It takes courage, persistence, and unity. Our strength is found in our collective resolve to move forward, together and without hesitation.

As we reflect on this call to action, we also take time to honor and congratulate this year's distinguished honorees. Each one embodies unwavering dedication and bold, purposeful action. Through their steadfast leadership, they lift communities, open doors to new opportunities, and actively shape a future rooted in justice and equity.

A special thank you to President Anita Ford Saunders, the Freedom Fund Committee, and every member who contributed to making this evening a success. Your tireless perseverance propels the NAACP's mission forward—to secure political, educational, social, and economic justice—and brings us closer to the enduring vision of a society where true inclusion and equality are realities for all.

Let us move forward with clear purpose and unyielding urgency. Let us renew our commitment to the fight for civil rights, equal opportunity, and lasting change. And let us stand for one another, for our communities, and for the future we are determined to build together.

Sincerely Yours in the Struggle,

Scot X. Esdaile, President
CT NAACP State Conference

NAACP National Board Member



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Middletown
CONNECTICUT 06457

Gene P. Nocera, PhD
ACTING MAYOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Middletown, it is my profound honor to welcome you to the **79th Annual NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Dinner**. We are proud to stand in partnership with the NAACP Middletown Branch and host this evening of reflection, recognition, and recommitment.

Tonight's theme, "**The Fierce Urgency of Now**," could not be more timely or more powerful. These words, first spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., remind us that the pursuit of justice cannot wait—that equity, dignity, and opportunity for all are not distant dreams but immediate imperatives.

We gather not only to celebrate distinguished honorees whose leadership has shaped lives and lifted communities, but to reaffirm our collective responsibility to advance racial and social justice here in Middletown and beyond. In this moment, we are reminded that progress requires both courage and unity—two qualities that define our city and the legacy of the NAACP.

To the Middletown NAACP, thank you for your tireless advocacy, your vision, and your unwavering commitment to building a better, more just future. And to everyone gathered tonight—your presence reflects the heart of this movement: community, accountability, and the shared belief that change is possible when we stand together.

Let this evening inspire us to act, to serve, and to lead with urgency, with purpose, and with fierce determination.

With pride and solidarity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene P. Nocera", is written over a blue circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Gene P. Nocera Acting Mayor".

Gene P. Nocera
Acting Mayor

Tracey McCain

Anchor - WFSB Channel 3

Two-time Emmy award-winning journalist Tracey McCain is thrilled to be back home in UCONN country!!

The Meriden native earned her journalism and mass communications degree from the University of Connecticut before graduating with her master's degree from Quinnipiac University.



It is also a homecoming for Tracey at WFSB as she returns to the station where she started! Fun fact: Tracey worked at Channel 3 as a college intern. The semester went fast, and Tracey was eager to learn more. So, she stayed on working behind the scenes in various aspects of the newsgathering process, eventually working as a live reporter on the weekend morning news.

From Hartford, Tracey was onto her next assignment as a reporter at WSHM in Springfield, M.A. Tracey spent most of her career anchoring the morning news at WFMY in Greensboro, N.C., where she brought her warm personality and bright smile to viewers for 18 years on The Good Morning Show and Noon News.

Tracey took a short but necessary break from TV in 2023 to focus on her young family. She then shared her experiences with work burnout and mom guilt on stages across the U.S. and in publications, podcasts, and blogs to help moms worldwide face similar situations.

Tracey's three children are now 9, 7, and 4, and she's ready to jump back into her role as wife, mom, and journalist, but this time with more balance.

Tracey is excited to return to WFSB with her 23 years of broadcast experience, bring you the day's top stories, and have fun with her longtime friend, Scot Haney.

Tracey is an active volunteer in the community but is most proud of her work raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease and caregiver support after her father's dementia diagnosis in 2014.

Tracey, her husband, Jaron, and their children have made their home in Hartford County.



Program

Call to Order & Introduction of Master of Ceremonies

Anita Ford Saunders, President

Mistress of Ceremonies: Welcome & Recognitions

Tracey McCain, Channel 3 Eyewitness News Morning Anchor

Invocation & Black National Anthem

Rev. Sylvia D. Reid-Chappell, Esq.
Gateway to Life, LLC.

Greetings

Mayor Gene Nocera, City of Middletown

*** * * Dinner is served * * ***

Presentation of Awards

Freedom Fund Committee Members

Membership Opportunity

Acknowledgements

Closing Remarks

Anita Ford Saunders

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Michael Christie
Zion First Baptist Church, Middletown, CT

Our 2025 Honorees

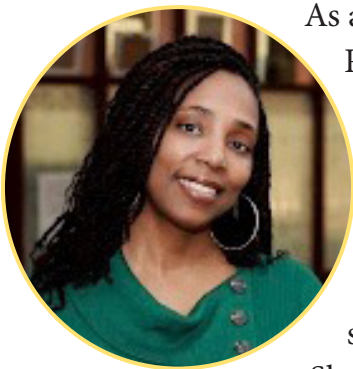


Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce St. Vincent de Paul Middletown

St. Vincent de Paul Middletown has been a quiet but powerful force for good in our community for over four decades. Through their welcoming soup kitchen, food pantry, and supportive housing programs, they offer kindness, dignity, and essential resources to individuals and families facing hardship. Their work is rooted in compassion and a deep belief in the worth of every person, regardless of their circumstances. St. Vincent's continues to be a place where hope is restored and lives are lifted, one meal, one conversation, and one act of service at a time. Their commitment to equity and inclusion resonates deeply with the values of the NAACP, making them a truly deserving nominee for this year's Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.



Health and Well-being Representative Kai Belton



As a freshman legislator, there was a great number of issues that Rep. Belton could have chosen to champion. Since the first day she stepped into the Capitol her passion for the marginalized and vulnerable has been her focus. This passionate legislative champion, Rep. Belton played a pivotal role in the passage of two groundbreaking maternal health bills that will expand access to care, prioritize mental health, and fortify support systems for families across Connecticut.

She transformed personal pain into purposeful policy, describing these new laws as *"a tool for justice."*

Our 2025 Honorees



Dr. Dawn E. Brooks **Education Innovation**

Dr. Dawn E. Brooks is a native of Middletown and alumna of Middletown High School. Since accepting the role as principal in 2023 she has transformed students, teachers and paraprofessionals with her commitment and her devotion to equity for all students. She fosters a positive teaching and learning culture, emphasizing student agency and voice. Dr. Brooks has led efforts to create a shared vision, promote cultural competence, and implement restorative practices. Her teaching, coaching, and founding of international travel programs have enriched student experiences, while her active participation in school and community events fosters engagement. Dr. Brooks led the equitable grading system pilot, contributed to the District Equity Policy, and implemented the award-winning Portrait of a Global Citizen. Under her leadership, Middletown High School has seen improved grade 9 on-track rates, reduced suspension rates, and enhanced school climate, earning recognition from the CT RISE Network.



Race and Justice **No Place for Hate Committee –** **Vinal Technical High School**

Gen Z is the generation known as the first “true digital natives.” We might fear that social media would distract them from one of our most human traits, empathy. That can’t be further from the truth.

The No Place for Hate Committee at Vinal Technical High School took a stand against someone that was fed by hatred. They spoke, not just among themselves, but to the administration and demanded a sort of justice that would be meaningful in their school community. The consequences were immediate and appropriate. At this moment, it doesn’t matter what those consequences were. What matters is these young people had the courage to step up and commit to action.

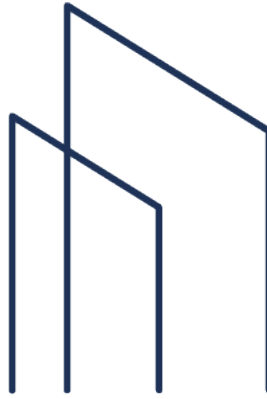
President's Award



2025 Presidents' Award Recipient Mrs. Mary Marshall

Mrs. Mary Marshall is an established evangelist and leader in this community and throughout the state. What we may not have known is her involvement in the civil rights movement, long before she came to Middletown.

A native of Eufala, Alabama, Mrs. Marshall experienced the traumatic results of Jim Crow – up close and personal. At an early age, she and others stood up against the likes of infamous segregationist George Wallace and the Klan. The history of the murder of Black Americans who were trying to vote, by “the White League” was not a distant memory. Mrs. Marshall, then president of the Barbour County Alabama Voting League, ran for Board of Education. She hasn't stopped championing our collective cause for civil rights.



DALE DEVELOPMENT



Dale Development would like to thank all their contractors and community partners for the great success of Springside Middletown and congratulate the Middlesex County NAACP and award winners for their vital work in Connecticut.

CONGRATULATIONS **to the** **Middlesex County** **NAACP!**

Thank You
for your continued
partnership and dedication
to the improvement of community
health and well-being.



Congratulations to this year's
Freedom Fund award winners
for doing the hard work of building freedom
in their communities — each and every day.



*We are proud to support the Middlesex County NAACP and
proud to work alongside Habitat for Humanity for the
betterment of Middlesex County.*

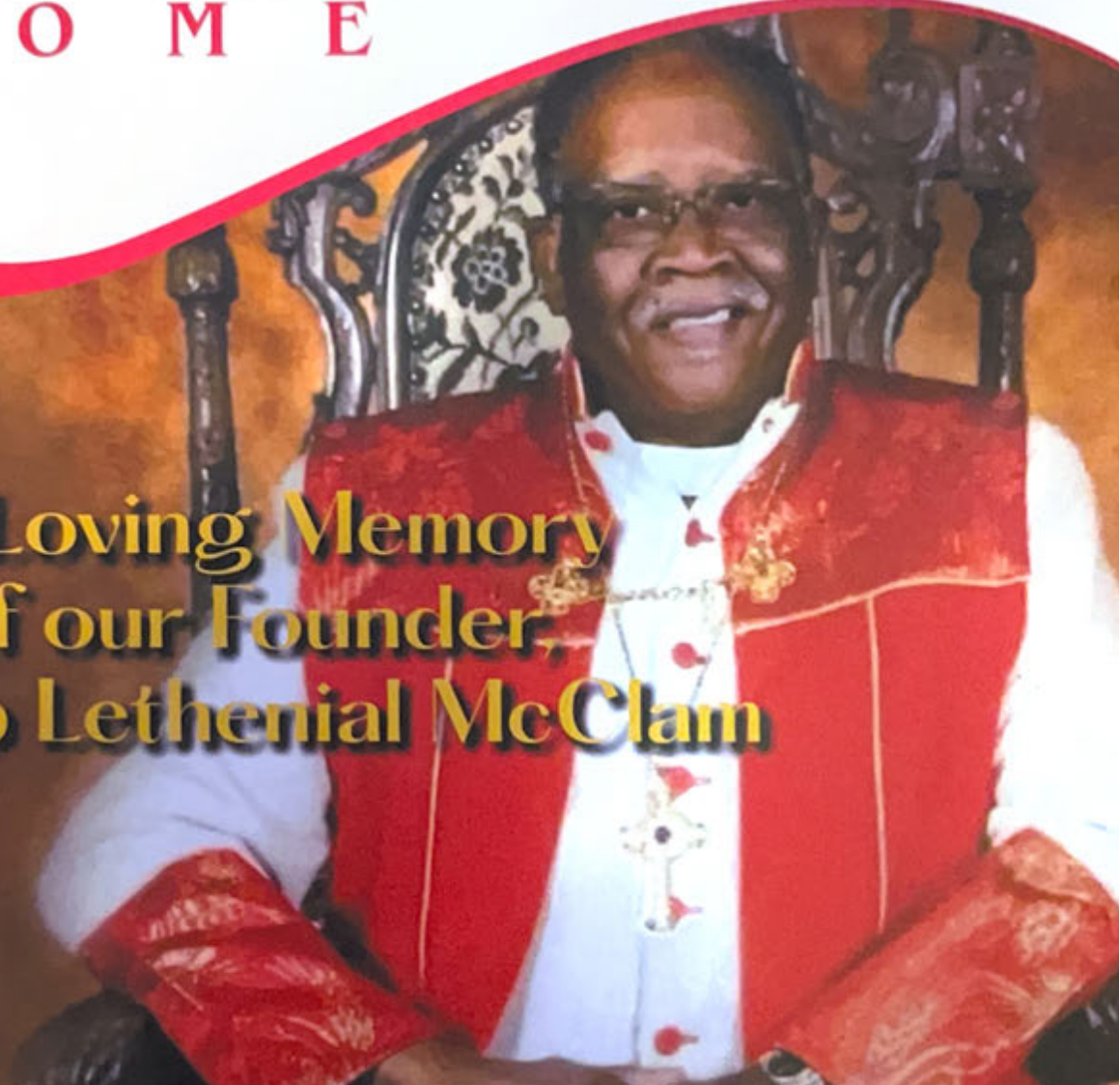
EVERSOURCE

For more, visit Eversource.com/DEI



Serving You With
Dignity & Respect,
When Only The
Best Will Do

McClamFuneral **H O M E**



**In Loving Memory
of our Founder
Bishop Lethenial McClam**

125 Coe Avenue
Middletown, CT 06457
860-788-2375

95 Dixwell Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203-786-4732

mcclamfuneralhome@yahoo.com
Serving all of Connecticut



THE LAW OFFICES OF MCHUGH & ASSOCIATES, LLC.

CONNECTICUT'S PREMIER LEGAL ALLIANCE

What Can You Expect When You Work With Us?

Injuries, whether they were caused by a car accident, a fall or a problem at work, can affect every aspect of your life. Because your injuries have such a big impact on you, they have an impact on us, too.

We treat every client like an individual because we know every case is different, and the outcome can affect the rest of your life. We want to make sure you can pay your bills; get the medical treatment you need and be able to take care of your family.

Your needs come first when you work with The Law Offices of McHugh & Associates, LLC.

Experienced Workers'
Compensation And
Personal Injury
Attorneys

[READ MORE ABOUT US](#)



Connecticut's Premier Legal Alliance

Sean M. McHugh
Attorney at Law

27 Pleasant Street • Middletown, Connecticut 06457
tel 860.346.6774 • toll free 1.866.624.6997
fax 860.346.6785

www.mchughlawct.com • smchugh@mchughlawct.com

Lori D. McHugh
Attorney at Law

27 Pleasant Street • Middletown, Connecticut 06457
tel 860.346.6774 • toll free 1.866.624.6997
fax 860.346.6785

www.mchughlawct.com • lmchugh@mchughlawct.com



CAPITAL PREPARATORY
MIDDLETOWN
CHARTER SCHOOL

Capital Prep Middletown proudly congratulates the Middlesex County NAACP on its 79th Annual Freedom Dinner and honors their unwavering commitment to equity and justice.

We believe that every child has the right to have access to a quality education regardless of race, zip code, or socio-economic status.

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

Capital Prep Middletown was ranked #1 and approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education in 2023. Today, in 2025, our school still has not been funded. How much longer must Middletown families wait?

JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Learn about where we are and how we got here, plus the journey ahead and how the community can support our efforts to #OpenCapitalPrepMiddletown!



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO RSVP**



Follow along and share our story. Your voice has the power to inspire others to join our cause.

Essex Savings Bank
is pleased to support the
Middlesex County NAACP Branch
and the
79th Annual Freedom Fund
Award Recipients!



ESSEX SAVINGS BANK
Service & Trust Since 1851

Essex, 35 Plains Road, 860-767-2573 • Essex, 9 Main Street, 860-767-8238
Chester, 203 Middlesex Avenue, 860-526-0000 • Madison, 99 Durham Road, 203-318-8611
Old Saybrook, 155 Main Street, 860-388-3543 • Old Lyme, 101 Halls Road, 860-434-1646

Toll-Free: 877-377-3922 • www.essexsavings.com

Member FDIC



Equal Housing Lender

**IDA M. MASSELLI
MIDDLESEX COUNTY NAACP
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

NAACP
Middlesex County Branch

2025 Award Recipients

- ❖ Sage Barry, Wesleyan University
- ❖ Kayla Chisholm, Central Connecticut State University
- ❖ Qymesha Hutley, University of Connecticut
- ❖ Michael Anthony Kline, University of Hartford
- ❖ Jordan McCaw, Nichols College
- ❖ Yori Perry Rice, Post University
- ❖ Kelina Robinson, Eastern CT State University

Thank you to Mark Masselli, the Masselli Family, and the Ida M. Masselli Scholarship Fund for your continued support to the NAACP and the students who exhibit outstanding commitment to their academic success.





TOGETHER, WE

TRANSFORM



NAACP
*Middlesex County Branch
Connecticut*

Learn more about Rotary Club membership.
Email Rotary President (and NAACP member) Lakisha Hyatt
at lakisha.hyatt@gmail.com



Building Power for a More Equitable Connecticut

Our Mission

ImpactCT believes all individuals and families—regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or gender—deserve the right to live in an equitable Connecticut with equal access to opportunity, quality education, safe communities, affordable housing, and high-quality healthcare.



Who We Are

As a 501(c)(4) and an Independent Expenditure Committee, ImpactCT:

- Supports candidates and policies that expand opportunity — especially for historically marginalized communities.
- Recruits, trains, and supports a new generation of diverse local leaders and campaign operatives.
- Leverages cutting-edge research, high-impact training, and strategic campaign support to ensure candidates aligned with equity-driven values can not only run — but win.

Our Focus

- **Housing** – Expand affordable housing and reduce homelessness.
- **Healthcare** – Ensure equitable access to high-quality, affordable care.
- **Education** – Strengthen public schools and prepare students for success.
- **Criminal Justice Reform** – Advance fairness and equity.
- **Wealth Generation** – Close wealth gaps and expand economic opportunity.



“We believe Connecticut must do more to create opportunity for all our residents. Affordable housing, equitable healthcare, and better schools will open doors to economic opportunity — benefiting everyone in our state.”

— Toni Harp, Chair of ImpactCT, Former Mayor of New Haven & CT State Senator

Donate. Join. Act.

ImpactCT.org | info@impactconn.org



ImpactCT is fully committed to transparency. All donors are publicly disclosed.

CEUI

Connecticut Employees Union Independent SEIU Local 511

*Representing over 5,000
Connecticut state workers*

President
Carl Chisem

Vice President
Michael Ercoli

Secretary/Treasurer
Leslie Maddocks

Trustees
Les Archer, Gregory Graham, Tina Griffith, Karen Martin, Mark Negralle



Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
Connecticut Labor Council

(860) 344-0311 P.O. Box 1268, Middletown, CT 06457

Russell Library, 123 Broad Street, Middletown, CT



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

A book gifting program that mails high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income, every month, at no cost to the child's family.

Books are 100% free to enrolled children who live in Middletown because Russell Library has secured funds to cover the cost of the books and the shipping fees.

Register online at russelllibrary.org or visit the library in person at 123 Broad Street, Middletown.



THE WOMEN IN NAACP
COMMITTEE PRESENTS

NAACP
Middlesex County Branch

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 8TH

11:00AM - 2:00PM

GIRL TALK
FOOD
SELF-CARE TIME
ACTIVITIES
AND LOTS OF FUN!

2025 Women & Girls Summit



LOCATION: CNTR (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE FREE CENTER)

725 MAIN STREET, MIDDLETOWN

TO REGISTER OR FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL US AT

INFO@MIDDLESEXCTNAACP.ORG



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Middlesex County

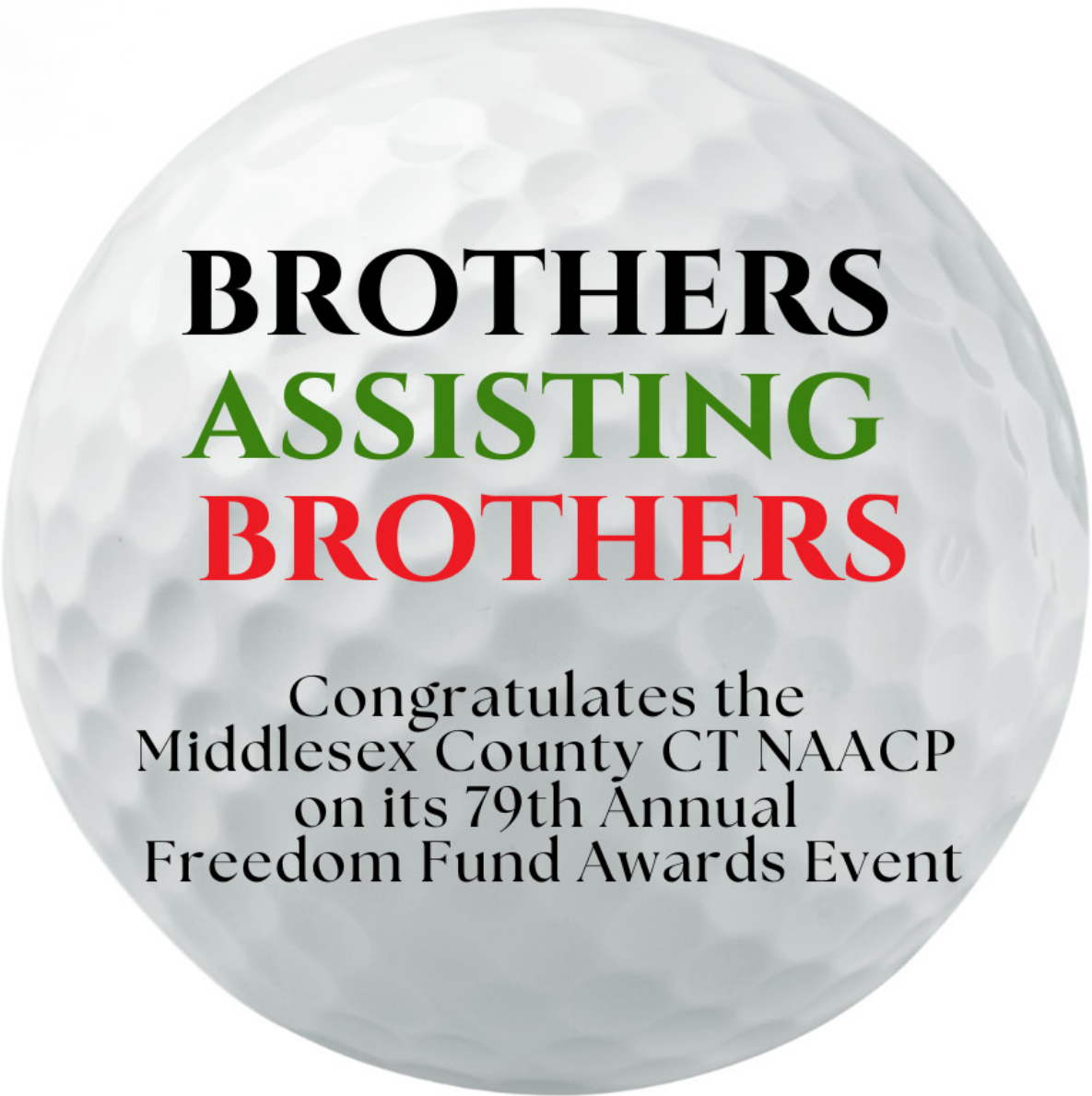
Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy

SPONSORED BY

**Hartford
HealthCare**

MidState Medical Center

"OUTSTRETCHED HANDS AND OPEN HEARTS TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN"



BROTHERS ASSISTING BROTHERS

**Congratulates the
Middlesex County CT NAACP
on its 79th Annual
Freedom Fund Awards Event**

A heartfelt congratulations to
Mrs. Mary Marshall on being honored with the
2025 Middlesex County NAACP President's Award!
We also extend our warmest congratulations to all
the award recipients!



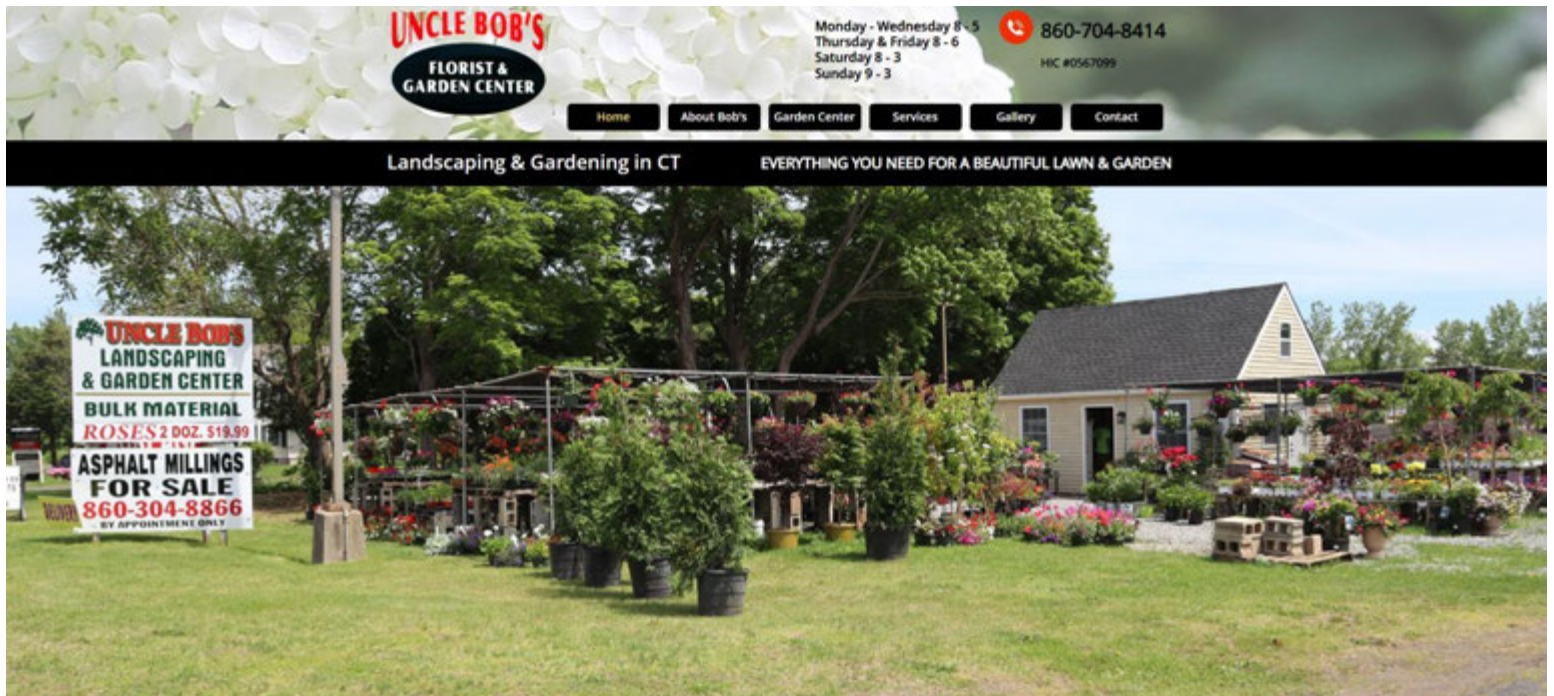
The Middlesex Chamber
congratulates the Middlesex County
branch of the NAACP on their 78th
Annual Freedom Fund Awards &
Membership Dinner!



We are proud to present the
Middlesex County Chamber of
Commerce Business Award to the
St. Vincent de Paul Middletown

www.middlesexchamber.com

Special Thanks To Uncle Bob's Florist & Garden Center for Your In-Kind Donation



We've Moved!

1000 Newfield St. Middletown CT (Old Holley Dodge)

YOUR LOCAL LANDSCAPER, FLORIST, & FULL-SERVICE GARDEN CENTER

Uncle Bob's Garden Center of Middletown, CT, offers everything you need to make your lawn and garden beautiful. We provide comprehensive landscaping and gardening products and services and operate a full-service garden center. We are a family business that offers big-box store prices without sacrificing personalized service.

Expert Landscapers

Our professional landscaping team is committed to providing superior service in all phases of your landscaping or gardening project. From planning to maintenance, we prepare individualized solutions for each project, combining creativity with realistic planning and due care.

Complete Garden Center

Our on-site garden center is open 7 days a week, with a comprehensive menu of landscaping and gardening supplies, including seasonal flowers, planting materials, and sod.

Floral Shop

From birthdays and graduations to weddings and anniversaries, we can provide floral arrangements for every occasion, in addition to a great selection of gifts, garden ornaments, and other decorative accessories.

Landscaping Supplies

We sell and install stone patios and retaining walls, architectural stone, swimming pool surrounds, walkways, and more. We also offer—and install—a great selection of gas, wood, and pellet stoves.

LOOK FOR MY FOOD TRUCK ON NEWFIELD STREET IN MIDDLETOWN.

For your lunch and catering needs.

Chef Anthony Foster
860-759-8632



CONGRATULATIONS NAACP MIDDLESEX COUNTY

SOPHISTICATED BUILDERS

P.O. Box 474 Portland, CT 06480

www.sophisticatedbuilders.com

860-994-1381

a.l.chappellconstruction@gmail.com



Building From The Ground Up And Everything In-Between!

Sylvia D. Reid, Esq. - Owner

Arthur L. Chappell, Lead Contractor

We Support Protecting Our Freedoms & Community



Proud partner of the Middlesex County NAACP!

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

*Irving
Berlin's* **WHITE
CHRISTMAS**
The Musical

NOV 14 – DEC 28

The Goodspeed, East Haddam

860.873.8668 • goodspeed.org

SHAPIRO
LAW OFFICES_{LLC}

*Shapiro Law Offices, LLC has been
proud to serve Connecticut businesses and
families since 1975 in a wide range of practice areas including:*

**Residential and Commercial Real Estate | Divorce Mediation
Housing | Wills & Estate Planning | Probate Matters**

*We salute the Middlesex County NAACP
for its fierce power of urgent advocacy -
The call to action is NOW.*

**32 Washington St, Middletown, CT 06457
ph. 860.347.3325 | fax. 860.347.3874
<http://www.shapirolawofficesct.com>**

*Sarah H. Shapiro
Deborah D. Shapiro*



Middlesex
UNITED WAY

CONGRATULATES THE HONOREES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY!



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT US!

2.1.1

The Craftsmen Club of George W. Crawford
Lodge No. 21 F. & A. M., Inc.
Prince Hall Affiliation

**CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES on your
79th ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND AWARDS & MEMBERSHIP DINNER!**



The
LASTRINA FAMILY
Funeral Home

Middletown, Connecticut

Sebastian Lastrina - Owner & Director
 Stacey Czepiel

491 HIGH STREET
 MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
 860-346-5439



COMMITTEE ON
SOLIDARITY
 PORTLAND, CT

SOLIDARITY • JUSTICE • EQUALITY

In collaboration with the
NAACP
Middlesex County Branch

the Portland Committee
 on Solidarity stands
 united for justice and equality.

PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com



DANIELS ENERGY™
 THE HOME COMFORT SPECIALISTS

Daniels Energy: CT License S1-385517 HOD#19
 Daniels Propane, LLC: CT License S1-302857 HOD #846
 New address:

103 Mill Rock Road East, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

DANIELS ENERGY OIL & PROPANE SERVICES



DANIELS Propane, LLC



98th
Daniels Energy Anniversary

HVAC systems, tanks, furnaces, boilers and hot water heaters. Mitsubishi Electric Ductless Heat Pump & A/C Systems. Oil and Propane Delivery.

Shoreline: 860-767-1920
 Middletown: 860-342-3778

LET DANIELS DO IT



GENE P. NOCERA, PhD
 Acting Mayor

mayor@middletownct.gov
 T 860-638-4801
 F 860-638-1901

Municipal Building
 245 deKoven Drive
 Middletown, CT 06457
www.middletownct.gov

OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT



FAITH M. JACKSON, DIRECTOR
 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER
 FAIR HOUSING OFFICER
 VETERAN SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

245 DEKOVEN DRIVE
 MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
faith.jackson@middletownct.gov

TEL: (860) 638-4830
 FAX: (860) 638-1930

NAACP

Middlesex County Branch



Malex Creations LLC

unique keepsakes crafted with love,
personalized for you

860-301-4696
malexcreations2@gmail.com

Owner: Tayna Oliver-Perry

Malex Creations

Our Services:

- Custom Engraving
- T-Shirt Personalization
- Embroidery Designs
- Handmade Gifts & Décor
- Unique Keepsakes
- And More!



CHANGING LOOKS

670 Newfield St, Middletown, CT 06457

860-344-1952

www.Changinglooksct.com



PRIMERICA®

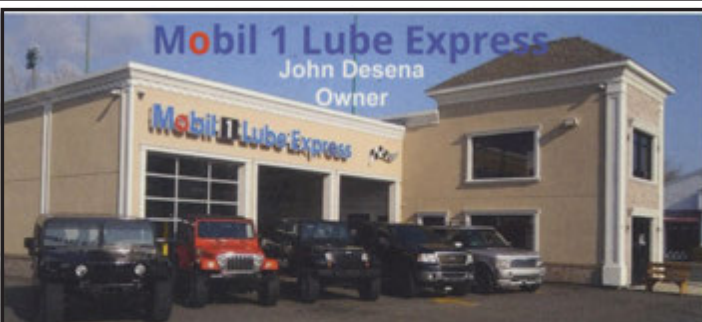
Rowan McClendon
Senior Vice President

Primerica
3074 Whitney Ave
Bldg One 2nd Fl
Hamden, CT 06518

203 495 6322 Phone
203 606 7272 Mobile
203 495 6323 Fax
rmccclendon.e4633@primerica.com

Mobil 1 Lube Express

John Desena
Owner



566 Washington St Middletown Ct
1359 Newfield St Middletown Ct

(860)632-5645
(860)788-7603
johnD.Mobil1@gmail.com

PROF GALLITTO GIRLS BASKETBALL





**IN CLASSROOMS, COURTROOMS,
AND AT THE BALLOT BOX, OUR
RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK.**

**THIS ISN'T JUST POLICY, IT'S A
FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES.**

Your Membership Matters!

Your membership is a commitment to the important work
of our branch and it is central to this work.

Become a member today!

- Join or renew online or through the mail.
- To join or renew, go to our branch website www.middlesexctnaacp.org or scan our QR code.
- Click on "Join", scroll halfway down, and choose "Online Membership" or "Print Membership".
- To renew by mail, please print, fill out the membership form, and mail it to: P.O. Box 378, Middletown, CT 06457.



NAACP: IT'S NOT A MOMENT, IT'S A MOVEMENT.
Renew your commitment to the mission and your community.

Ann T. Percival, Chairperson
Membership Committee

Anita Ford Saunders
Branch President



NAACP
THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

JUL 09 - 16, 2025

CHARLOTTE, NC

116th
NAACP National Convention

Branch Delegates: Melissa Askew-Hart, 2nd Vice President/Co-Chair, Youth Works Committee; Anita Ford Saunders, Shawonda Swain, Co-Chair, Youth Works Committee; Faith M. Jackson, At-large Member; Rosa Browne, At-Large Member (Pictured with Scot X. Esdaile, President, CT State Conference of NAACP Branches & National Board Member)

To learn more about the organization and the work we do in Middlesex County,
visit our website at www.middlesexctnaacp.org



2025 Freedom Fund Committee

Lavinia Cockrell & Andrea Kelly, Co-Chairpersons
Rosa Browne
Gerri Duggan
Briajh Harrell
Barbara W. Holloman
Faith M. Jackson
Lorenzo Marshall
Anita Ford Saunders
Michael Scott

Officers

Anita Ford Saunders, President
Michael Alleyne, First Vice President
Melissa Askew-Hart, Second Vice President
Lavinia Cockrell Alleyne, Treasurer
Melissa McCaw, Assistant Treasurer
Barbara W. Holloman, Secretary

Executive Committee

Colleen Cain-Alleyne, Education
Melissa Askew-Hart, Youth Works/Youth Co-Advisor
Rosa Browne, At-Large
Andrea Kelly, Health
Briajh Harrell, Communications
Barbara W. Holloman, Women in NAACP (WIN)
Faith M. Jackson, At-Large
Ann Percival, Membership
Sylvia Reid, Legal Redress
David Roane, At-Large
Shawonda Swain, Youth Works/Youth Co-Advisor
Gary Wallace, Armed Services & Veteran Affairs

General Body meetings: Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.
--

For more information, visit our website at www.middlesexctnaacp.org



Freedom to Soar

BANK with a credit union
that puts **YOU** first.

BRANCH LOCATIONS:

Avon • Bloomfield • Cromwell • East Hartford • Enfield • Glastonbury
Manchester • Newington • North Haven • Plainville • Southington
South Windsor • Vernon • West Hartford

AmericanEagle.org



Federally insured by NCUA.


American Eagle
Financial Credit Union

We're all in this together.



Since 1825 **Liberty Bank** has been dedicated to helping families throughout Connecticut. Today, we continue this commitment by helping to improve the lives of our customers, teammates, and communities for generations to come.

We are delighted to partner with organizations like the **Middlesex County NAACP** that share our commitment, and help make our communities great places to live and work. We are proud to sponsor **79th Annual Freedom Fund Awards and Membership Dinner** and join in celebrating tonight's honorees and their inspiring contributions to our communities!



Be Community Kind.™



CELEBRATING
200
— YEARS —



[liberty-bank.com](#)

Member FDIC