



James Gray
President

100
BLACK MEN
OF AMERICA, INC.

James Gray was elected president of the Alton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1990, and has served in that capacity since that time. He has frequently negotiated successful solutions to problems faced by African American workers in the Alton area, demanding job creation, retention and fair treatment for police and firemen, sanitation and landfill employees, utility workers and school teachers. In School District 11, the efforts of the local branch helped generate the hiring of approximately 25-30 African American administrators and teachers.

A strong believer in education, Gray, a graduate with honors from both Alton Senior High School and the Ranken College of Electronics, established a C average scholarship program. In its tenth year, this effort has given over *\$45,000* in scholarships to 60 students.

James Gray is the epitome of leadership, determination, compassion and the fight for what is right in the world. His independent thinking and consideration for those less fortunate has made its mark in Alton and the surrounding area and has been recognized by local and national organizations.

The National NAACP has given him numerous awards in recent years, including the Bill Cosby award, the Membership Award, the President Award and Man of the Year honors. The Alton NAACP branch is the top rated branch in Illinois and one of the top ten branches in the nation. The St. Louis Sentinel and the Urban League gave James the prestigious "Yes I Can" award three years in a row for his accomplishments. He was Chairman of the Board of the 100 Black Men of Alton for three years, served two terms as parliamentarian, and is currently vice-president of this prestigious group.