



The Southern **COOPERATOR**

The Federation/LAF to Hold it's 44th Anniversary - August 18-20, 2011
*The Honorable Bennie Thompson (D-MS) will receive the Estelle Witherspoon Award;
Ben Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP, will serve as Chair of the Event*

ATLANTA....As we prepare to celebrate 44 years of service to rural communities, we want to thank you for your continued support during these challenging economic times. We are happy to announce our *44th Anniversary Celebration and 10th Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner* to be held August 18, 2011 at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel located at 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., Birmingham, Alabama. The award dinner is just one of three events we will host as we commemorate this great milestone in our history.



Ben Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP

Chairing this commemorative 44th Anniversary Celebration is *Mr. Benjamin Todd Jealous*, President and CEO of the NAACP. Jealous grew up believing that there was no higher calling than to further the cause of freedom in this country and in the world. It is a mindset he inherited from his parents and grandparents. Their drive for community betterment blazed the trail for Jealous' own deep commitment to social justice, public service and human rights activism. Now, as the 17th President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP, and the youngest

person to hold the position in the organization's nearly 100-year history, Jealous is well positioned to answer the call.



Bennie Thompson (D-MS)

We are honored to present the 10th Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award to U. S. Representative Bennie Thompson of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. Representative Thompson is presently serving his ninth term as Congressman and is the longest-serving African-American elected official in the state of Mississippi. Thompson is the ranking member of the Homeland Security.

Help us celebrate this momentous occasion by becoming a major sponsor. Please see the attached *Dinner Response Form* for details. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Federation's continuous efforts to promote social and economic equity for low-income people and underserved farmers; advance its work toward achieving sustainable southern rural communities through cooperative

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