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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop Calvin Woods Receives BCRI Legacy Award

BIRMINGHAM, AL (January 17, 2022) – This weekend, CBS 42 News anchor, Art Franklin, the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Organization, Birmingham Squadron, and The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute were pleased to present Bishop Calvin Woods with the BCRI Legacy Award for six decades of courageous leadership through the Civil Rights Movement.

Themed “Living the Dream”, the Squadron partnered with the R.E.S.P.E.C.T Organization and BCRI to present an event at Legacy Arena to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the efforts of activists in Birmingham during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Bishop Woods' honor was presented center court, during the basketball game.

A native of The Magic City, proud graduate of A.H. Parker High School and Miles College, he pastored Shiloh Baptist Church Norwood in Birmingham for 33 years. Bishop Woods' influence and community involvement began when he was a very young man. In the 1950s, under the leadership of Dr. Fred Shuttlesworth, Bishop helped in the foundation of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.

He was sentenced to six months hard labor for advocating for the desegregation of Birmingham's bus system in 1958. He was also coordinator of the lunch counter sit in campaign in Birmingham. He led the Easter Sunday March in support of MLK after he was arrested on Good Friday in 1963. He was also brutalized on many occasions and suffered being spat upon during the sit ins.

Bishop headed up the Transition Committee to ensure that various business sectors were integrated following the 1963 demonstrations. In the same year, a lawsuit was filed in the name of one of his three daughters jailed, Linda Cal Woods, on behalf of all youth who had been suspended from school during a demonstration. This was done to ensure that all students who had been suspended would be re-instated back to their perspective elementary and high schools.

In 1966, he was appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference City Convener for the Birmingham Ministers Leadership Conference.

Bishop Woods remains involved in the movement today, having just retired after 57 years of service with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Birmingham Metro Chapter where he served as president since 2006 and 1st Vice President of the National SCLC.

About BCRI: The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. For more than 28 years, we have enlightened each generation about civil and human rights. A part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, we stand strong as the cornerstone of the civil rights story, a living memorial with an ongoing mission.