

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LeMoyne-Owen College to Kick Off Black History Month with a Ceremony to Honor Founding Civil War-era School Lincoln Chapel MEMPHIS, TN (January 28, 2016)

LeMoyne-Owen College kicks off its 91st celebration of Black History Month **Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. with a lecture and a wreath-laying ceremony.** Award-winning author Dr. Bobby Lovett will present his lecture "*HBCUs: Hallowed Grounds of African American Education*" at **11 a.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 767 Walker Ave.**

The wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the destruction of Lincoln Chapel immediately follows with Dr. Lovett, along with LeMoyne-Owen College faculty, students, staff and guests, proceeding up Walker Ave. to the campus' Historic Bell.

Before LeMoyne-Owen College was named in honor of benefactor Dr. Francis Julius LeMoyne, the school was named Lincoln Chapel, in honor of Abraham Lincoln, our nation's 16th president. The American Missionary Association founded Lincoln Chapel in 1862 at Camp Shiloh in Shiloh, TN. There, students were runaway slaves and freedmen who learned to read and write. The school moved to Memphis in 1863 where it was burned to the ground during the massacre that was the Memphis Riots of 1866. The school rose from the ashes a year later.

Today, LeMoyne-Owen College is a thriving Historically Black College with approximately 1,000 students. The College celebrates Black History Month each year to pay tribute and to remember African Americans who have made significant contributions to our nation's history.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Femi Ajanaku at (901) 435-1427.