



Poets for America

William Owens

720-539-3761

William@poetsforamerica.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2106

PRESS RELEASE

POETS AND LEADERS TO ADDRESS RACIAL WARS IN AMERICA

Poets for America is calling all poets to America's Poetry Contest & Heal Our Land Symposium

A constructive poetry contest and discussion on the racial wars in America and how to stop it

Memphis, TN, October 1, 2016 – Local Poet and Author William Owens is on a mission to use poetry of the people and a symposium of local leaders to challenge communities to demonstrate acts of hope, love and unity – the only remedy to the racial wars escalating in America.

Owens states, *I believe Black Lives Matter and local leaders are missing a huge opportunity in not only leading in awareness of injustice on both sides, but to also be the catalyst for healing for all Americans in a proactive setting before trouble happens, not in a reactive crises after tragedy strikes - of which eventually will.*

Owens is the author of 8-books with his latest being his first book of poetry entitled, *Naked Before God – Words that Express My Heart*. Born and raised in Memphis and a graduate of Whitehaven High School, he is writing a new poem every day until the elections that captures the power of hope, love and unity. He performs them on video as well as reads them to people on the street and record their responses as well. The poems are then posted on the website. He is challenging other poets to do the same. As of today, he is in his 10th day.

Poets for America, founded by Owens, will co-sponsor the ***America's Poetry Contest and Heal Our Land Symposium*** in which members from different viewpoints will be invited to discourse through poetry and spoken word. It is designed to create a platform in which a serious yet peaceful effort is made to bring issues to the forefront of our communities and discover how we can improve our efforts for change without the destructive actions of citizens and the obvious as well as systemic racism of the system.

On Sunday October 30, starting at 3:00PM, the event will be held at The Caritas Village located at 2509 Harvard Ave. in Memphis, TN. Founder Onie Johns states, "Our vision has always been to create racial harmony throughout the city." While the event is open to the public a contribution will be taken in advance or at the door. A percentage of the profits will go to Caritas Village capital funding project. Runner up and winner will receive a cash prize. Judges of the poets and symposium panel will be invited guest and audience participation.

Owens believes this poetry contest and symposium is critical as we witness more violence, more deaths and less engagement from leaders within the community. Both community and church leaders have been too silent at such a historic time in which their leadership is needed. Martin Luther King said, *In the end we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.* Owens expresses this sentiment in his latest poem, "Silence is Consent." It can be read at www.poetsforamerica.com/silence-is-consent. Poets who want to participate in the contest can find the rules and register at www.poetsforamerica.com.

Poets for America – Speaking words of hope, love and unity throughout America

###

If you would like more information about this event, please contact Poets for America at 720-539-3761 or email at media@poetsforamerica.com