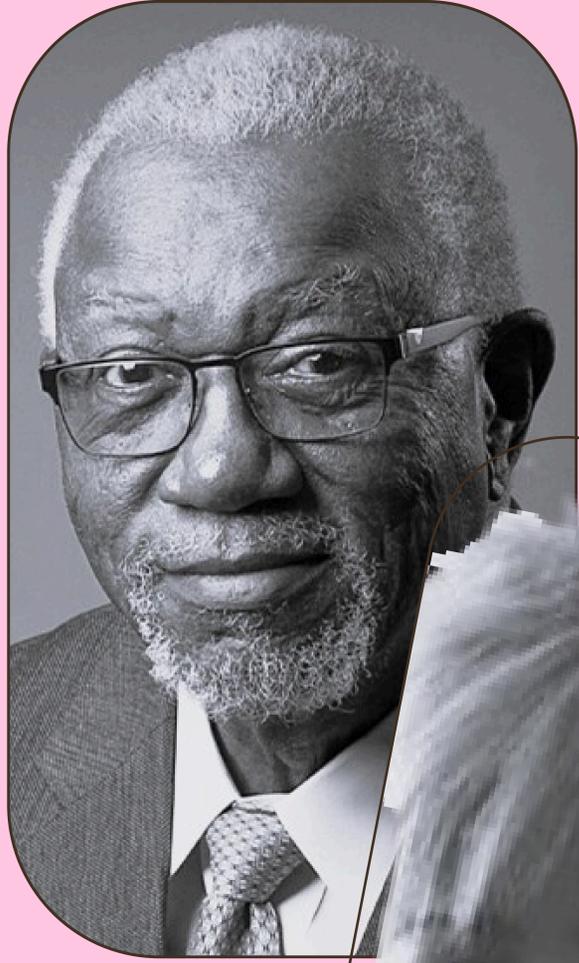


ALI & EARLENA MORRIS



COMMERCE IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA. IN 2001, AFTER MOVING TO BAKERSFIELD AND RECOGNIZING A NEED FOR STRONGER REPRESENTATION AND SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE REGION, ALI AND EARLENA HELPED ESTABLISH THE KERN COUNTY BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES, ADVOCACY, AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES.

EARLENA MORRIS ALSO RAN HER OWN CONCIERGE BUSINESS, TIME AVE, WHERE SHE ASSISTED CLIENTS WITH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ERRANDS, DEMONSTRATING HER ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT BEYOND HER CIVIC ROLES. SHE SERVED ON THE CHAMBER'S BOARD AND WAS CHERISHED FOR HER EMPOWERING PRESENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. EARLENA PASSED AWAY ON AUGUST 10, 2017, BUT HER LEGACY CONTINUES THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION AND THE PROGRAMS IT SUPPORTS.

ALI MORRIS HAS CONTINUED TO CHAMPION ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN KERN COUNTY. HIS EFFORTS ALONGSIDE EARLENA HELPED ENSURE THAT LOCAL BLACK ENTREPRENEURS HAD PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS TO GROW—WORK THAT REMAINS FOUNDATIONAL TO THE CHAMBER'S MISSION TODAY.

TOGETHER, ALI AND EARLENA MORRIS ARE CELEBRATED FOR FILLING A VITAL GAP IN BAKERSFIELD'S BUSINESS LANDSCAPE BY BUILDING A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION THAT CHAMPIONS EQUITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROGRESS.