

## **NBCSL Remembers Founder and Former President, Rep. Lois DeBerry (TN)**

The late Tennessee State Representative Lois DeBerry was one of the founding members of NBCSL and our organization continues to stand on her shoulders.

She was the organization's first woman president. Under her leadership, the organization gained national influence and recognition. President DeBerry led a delegation to meet with then President Bill Clinton and held the first, second, and third national conferences on issues impacting African American males. President DeBerry also expanded NBCSL's corporate partnership base and led a delegation to Dakar, Senegal.

Elected in 1972, Representative DeBerry was the longest-serving member of the Tennessee House of Representatives. Representative DeBerry was respected by members on both sides of the aisle and was the first African American woman elected as Speaker Pro Tempore.