

# PRESS RELEASE

## LARRY LOVE UNIVERSITY

*Honoring Mother Lessie Benningfield Randle — Chicago Visit, October 2026*

|         |                       |          |                                            |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| DATE    | Oct 9–11, 2026        | LOCATION | Chicago & Cicero, IL                       |
| SPONSOR | Larry Love University | HONOREE  | Mother Lessie Benningfield Randle, Age 111 |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 111-Year-Old Last Living Survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, Mother Lessie Benningfield Randle, to Visit Barack Obama Presidential Center in October 2026

*Larry Love University Sponsors Historic Journey Honoring a Living Legacy of Courage, Resilience, and Education*

**MUSKOGEE, OKLA.** — Larry Love University (LLU), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization headquartered in Muskogee, Oklahoma, proudly announces that Mother Lessie Benningfield Randle, the 111-year-old last living survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, is scheduled to visit the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago in October 2026.

Mother Randle is expected to arrive in Chicago on **Friday, October 9, 2026**, for a series of events celebrating her extraordinary life and enduring legacy. Her visit represents a rare opportunity to honor a living witness to one of the darkest chapters in American history — inspiring future generations through resilience, education, hope, and reconciliation.

As part of her visit, Mother Randle will receive the **Mighty Men & Women of God Humanitarian Award** on **Sunday, October 11, 2026**, in Cicero, Illinois. The ceremony will be attended by multiple celebrity guests and dignitaries, including former World Boxing Champion **"Lightning" Lonnie Smith** and **Ace Watkins of the acclaimed R&B group Public Announcement** — making it a landmark celebration of Mother Randle's century-long legacy of faith, community, and resilience.

Larry Love University is proud to sponsor this historic journey. Mother Randle holds the distinction of being the **oldest living alumni member** of Larry Love University.

#### EVENT DETAILS — OCTOBER 2026

| Date | Event | Location |
|------|-------|----------|
|------|-------|----------|

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday, October 9, 2026         | Arrival in Chicago, Illinois                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Chicago Area            |
| Weekend, Oct. 9–11              | Celebration events honoring Mother Randle's extraordinary life and enduring legacy                                                                                                                                                     | Chicago, Illinois       |
| <b>Sunday, October 11, 2026</b> | <b>The Mighty Men &amp; Women of God Humanitarian Award Ceremony</b><br><b>Featuring: Former World Boxing Champion "Lightning" Lonnie Smith; Ace Watkins of Public Announcement; and additional celebrity guests &amp; dignitaries</b> | <b>Cicero, Illinois</b> |

### WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

- **Living History:** Mother Randle is the sole surviving eyewitness to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre — a living link to one of America's darkest chapters.
- **Star-Studded Recognition:** The October 11 ceremony features former World Boxing Champion "Lightning" Lonnie Smith, Ace Watkins of Public Announcement, and additional celebrities and dignitaries.
- **Intergenerational Impact:** Her presence at the Barack Obama Presidential Center bridges history and the promise of a more equitable future.
- **Education as Liberation:** As an LLU alumna, her story embodies lifelong learning — proof that education is not bound by age or adversity.
- **National Media Moment:** A rare opportunity for journalists, documentary producers, and digital media creators to capture a living legend's story.

### MEDIA CONTACT

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*For interview scheduling, press credentials, and media inquiries, contact us directly.*

**Rise up — don't wait! | [www.larryloveuniversity.org](http://www.larryloveuniversity.org) | (844) GO-TO-LLU**

*This press release was prepared by Larry Love University. All interview requests and photo usage should be coordinated through the contacts above.*

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