

Bio-Short of William H. Smith, Ed. D.

William H. "Smitty" Smith, Ed. D. is the founding executive director of the National Center for Race Amity in Boston, Ma. Smith's college career began in helping integrate Division I football in the old Confederate South at Wake Forest College. He was profiled in the *Sports Illustrated* cover story (November 7, 2005) as one of the pioneers who helped changed the face of college football. As a community organizer in the Civil Rights Movement he was drafted into the US Army and as a conscientious objector served as a medic in Vietnam, where he was awarded two Bronze Star awards and the Combat Medic Badge. He completed his education with honors and holds a Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. As a member of the National Race Unity Committee of the Baha'is of the United States Smith coordinated the national initiative "Neighborhood Conversations on Race: A Talk Worth Having."

Among many awards Smith is recipient of the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Outstanding Documentary Award for *The Invisible Soldiers: Unheard Voices* which aired nationally on PBS; the National Education Association Award for Outstanding Program for Television; the NAACP Chairman's Award for Service Through Media; and the AFTRA/SAG Diversity in Production Award. In 2000 Dr. Smith led the successful initiative culminating in the Joint Resolution of The Congress of The United States establishing the National Day of Honor for African American and Other Minority World War II Veterans. The resolution included an Oval Office signing ceremony with President Bill Clinton. Smith is also co-executive producer and co-writer of the documentary *An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition* currently airing on public television as well as five half hours in production to air in January 2021. He is co-author of *Race Amity - America's Other Tradition: A Primer*.

Through Smith's leadership the National Center for Race Amity organized the legislative initiative that culminated December 29, 2015 in Massachusetts' Governor Charlie Baker signing into law Massachusetts Race Amity Day. The bill "Authorizes Race Amity Day To Be Celebrated Annually The Second Sunday in June ." In June 2016 the US Senate passed a Resolution designating June 13, 2016 as National Race Amity Day. Similar efforts were initiated in South Carolina with the South Carolina House Legislative Assembly proclaiming June 9, 2019 as Race Amity Day in the State of South Carolina. NCRA is the lead organization in *Towards E Pluribus Unum*, an initiative calling for a Joint U. S. Congressional Resolution to establish the 2nd Sunday in June as National Race Amity Day.

Under Smith's leadership the National Center for Race Amity has developed an innovative board game, *Breaking It Down Towards E Pluribus Unum*. The game engages racial dialogues in a non-toxic manner. The game was created to allow lay people to participate in racial dialogues without the oversight of facilitators.