

A Celebration of Life
for
The Honorable Harry A. Cole
The Morgan Years

THE HONORABLE HARRY A. COLE WAS THE CONSUMMATE MORGAN MAN! He was proud of his Morgan roots, and he delighted in just being in the company of his fellow Morganites. When he spoke of Morgan, his eyes aglow, his heart, to paraphrase the *Alma Mater*, "at its name thrilled with pride." One could tell that he was proud that all that he had achieved in his enormously productive and record-breaking career reflected favorably upon his Alma Mater.

Harry A. Cole's undergraduate years at Morgan were prophetic. They witnessed his emergence as leader and spokesman and activist. Enrolled at the College on a full tuition scholarship, he became President of the Student Council and President of the Debating Society, as well as President of the Junior Class and founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Spokesman*, the campus student newspaper. He was inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society and participated in the Dramatic Society and on the Tennis Team. His participation in these activities displayed not only his commitment to academic excellence, but also his early appreciation for the written and spoken word, his eagerness to be on the cutting-edge, and his predilection for being an agent for change. He encouraged his fellow students to be bold in taking on challenges and raising issues. Setting a fine example for them in his senior year, in an editorial in *The Spokesman*, he challenged the nation's war plan and its devastating effects upon liberal arts education. He counseled his fellow Americans that, though they might win the war abroad, they also needed to win the peace at home by supporting quality education. This early resolve on his part to wage an unrelenting humanistic battle for learning foreshadowed the trail-blazer and the indefatigable path-finder that he was to become soon thereafter. The Promethean Fire was ignited in Harry A. Cole during his Morgan years, and he left the College determined to make a difference in the world and to help defend human rights. Ironically, he did not attend his Morgan Commencement Exercises in 1943, where he was graduated *magna cum laude* as Valedictorian of his class with a major in history because he had already enlisted in the U.S. Army to help his nation fight its battles abroad.

Having fought a good fight for his country, Harry A. Cole returned to the United States to continue his passionate pursuit of excellence. After completing Law School at the University of Maryland in 1949, he took on a career in law and politics. He began to knock at doors previously closed to African Americans and found that he was the mighty warrior who could open them. His successes are legend. He integrated the Maryland State Senate, the Attorney General's Office, the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the Charles Center Complex, and the Mary-

"Judge Cole was first and foremost concerned about the well-being of students. Whenever we talked about bricks and mortar issues, the Judge would want to know how projects to improve university programs and facilities would benefit students. It's going to be impossible to replace a man of his stature and commitment, but we must continue our efforts to provide students with educational programs comparable to those offered by any college or university in the nation. That's what he would want us to do. And we will preserve his legacy by doing just that."

Earl S. Richardson
President

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The Student Editor-in-Chief Speaks

This first publication of "THE SPOKESMAN" represents a great victory in the history of the struggle of the student body to have a permanent student publication. It represents the means through which the spirit of Morgan, its ideals and aims, opinions and views, may be voiced to Morganites, Alumni, and friends. The actual success of this project, however, has not been realized. It can not be realized without the unmitigated support, cooperation, and criticism of each student. This is an enterprise which necessarily embraces the entire student body. Each student has a definite part to play in its perfection.

Morganites should never lose sight of the fact that, heretofore, they have been satisfied and content to accept as representative of them work of very mediocre character. This is, indeed, a sad commentary, but, nevertheless, true. With earnestness and persistence this stigma of incompetence can be removed. "THE SPOKESMAN," representing the dawn of a new era, shall devote every effort toward the complete eradication of this mark at which all true Morganites look with indignation.

Harry A. Cole
"An Editorial"

December 1942 Inaugural Edition of *The Spokesman*

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land's highest court, the Court of Appeals. More importantly, he blazoned paths for others to follow, and he raised issues and concerns previously neglected or overlooked and posited opinions and informed judgments that were uncommon. In his long and distinguished career as legislator and jurist, he established a legacy of which his Alma Mater is fittingly proud.

It was no wonder and no surprise that Governor Parris Glendonning named Judge Harry A. Cole, who retired from the bench in 1991, the new Chairman of the Board of Regents of Morgan State University in 1995. And, at that point, began the second chapter in the Morgan Years of Harry A. Cole. He took on the chairmanship of the Board with earnestness, determination and ineffable pride. He considered it a great honor to be the first alumnus of Morgan to be named Chairman of its Board of Regents, and he seemed to feel that this distinction imposed upon him a special obligation to do an outstanding job. It also seems that, in his nostalgic remembrance of his undergraduate years at Morgan, he wanted to bring back the fervor for constructive criticism and the commitment to progress that he enjoyed while a student at Morgan. Most of all, he seemed driven by a great desire to make Morgan one of the nation's finest institutions, one that attracts faculty and students not so much because of its ethnicity, but mainly because of its quality. He wanted Morgan's students, especially, to have the best—from the academic programs to the buildings and grounds.

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The 1942 Editorial Board Of *The Spokesman*

Editor-in-Chief	Harry A. Cole
Associate Editors	Herbert Trader, Parren Mitchell, Dorothy Patterson
Managing Editor	Joseph Gibbs
News Editors	George Harris, Maethelda Morris, Viola O'Neil, Jonathan Campbell, Evelyn Moore, Lillian Riley
Wit and Humor	Lillian Hinton
Copy Editors	Corrine Walker, Evelyn Alexander, Kathleen Mumby
Exchange Editor	Lorenzo Thomas
Business Manager	Milton Shephard
Advertising Manager	Robert Watts
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Reports and Contributors	Ernestine Welch, Jacqueline Freeman, Muriel Dougal, James Lee, John Peag, Norman Bankins, Arthur McIver, Reginald Walton, Lorenzo Felder
Typists	Francis Ogle, Dorothy Williams, Thelma Ellis, Sevilla Boyd
Sponsors	Clinton E. Knox, Jessie M. Wright

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The passion for excellence that Chairman Harry A. Cole brought to the leadership of the Board of Regents did not go unnoticed. His leadership of the Board was even-handed and fair, and he generated an atmosphere of genuine camaraderie. The faculty and students of the University felt a closeness to him and were comfortable chatting casually with him or debating an issue with him. They felt that he was one of them. And it was his uncanny ability to put others at ease, to show respect for their opinions, to listen to the other side of issues and to accept them as his equals that was the indelible mark that he placed on every thing that he did at Morgan.

As Judge Harry A. Cole loved Morgan State University, so, too, did Morgan State University love Judge Harry A. Cole, one of its favorite sons! His is a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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KWEISI MFUME
President & Chief Executive Officer

February 18, 1999

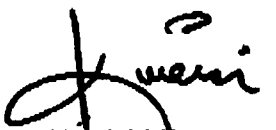
Dear Mrs. Cole:

I join the entire NAACP family in extending heartfelt condolences to you and your family. The death of Judge Harry A. Cole is an inestimable loss to us all. He was able to touch and measure the pulse of our State's vast populace and reached countless people across Maryland. He was a wonderful person who fashioned a life of extraordinary service. As the first African-American elected to the state Senate, as well as the first African-American to serve on Maryland's highest court, he served as an excellent example to all.

I understand all too well that mere words may be inadequate at a time such as this. Perhaps it will lighten your burden of sorrow to know that many others share your grief and abide with you in prayer. I believe that there is a special and unique bond that exists between husbands and wives, and trust, therefore, that the time you shared with him will linger forever in your heart. I am sure he will long be remembered by all that knew and loved him.

Unfortunately, too few experiences in life can prepare us for the passing of a loved one. However, it was promised in *John 14:18* that God would not leave us comfortless; may He continue to bless and comfort you abundantly during your hour of need. With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,


Kweisi Mfume
President & CEO
KM/crm