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President George T. French, PhD
CAU Board of Trustees
Clark Atlanta University
223 James P. Brawley Drive
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Greetings,

I am writing to let you know why I believe the Department of Political Science should be named for Dr. Mack Henry Jones.

I retired after a career of 43 years of teaching on the college level. I do not have enough words to say how much I owe to Mack. He influenced my personal and professional growth in multiple ways especially in the areas of teaching and mentoring. Through words and demeanor, he expanded my worldview, thereby helping me to become a better person, student, and eventually, a better teacher. He taught me perspective and learning from the lived experiences of Black people enhanced and expanded my own perspective. As a result of Mack's interactions with me I began to see my professional role as a facilitator in the teaching and learning process. This was especially important for me because of my conservative southern rearing and background, where it was important for everyone to "know your place." Mack treated me with respect and did not impose restrictions on me. When I began my career, he treated me as an equal and friend and never failed to respond, whether I was asking for guidance or sharing good news.

As a young student, I did not see myself teaching and yet, after my exposure to Mack, I experienced a 43-year career in the academy. This is what he did for me: kept his office door open, listened to my ideas, and talked to me but let me develop and rework my thoughts. After that he would ask questions and/or make commentary. Perhaps what helped me most was that I would always learn that there was more. That knowledge kept me humble and kept me working to further explore and develop ideas. He told his students that our books were our tools and to go to the library and browse. Through browsing I gained new knowledge. Additionally, he was interested in my work in other classes and those discussions helped me to better understand the interconnectedness of learning. In my professional life, I came to understand how much mentoring was involved in our interactions. Mack could easily have given me a quick reply and shown me the exit, but he did not.

Based on the example Mack modeled for me, I learned that the classroom experience requires one to be humane, prepared, professional, and ethical. I learned that a substantive understanding of the role of the past, present, and future of HBCUs, benefits not only our immediate families and

communities but the whole of humanity. His approach is holistic, and I applied it to my students, whenever possible, throughout my career.

I could say more but with a sincere request, I support and recommend the naming of the Department of Political Science in honor of Dr. Mack Henry Jones.

Respectfully,

Marva A. Johnson

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