

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center

April 22, 2021

Dr. George T. French
President, Clark Atlanta University

Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees

Dear President French and Board Members:

I am writing in support of naming the Department of Political Science at Clark Atlanta University in honor of Dr. Mack H. Jones, former chair of the Department. I received my Ph.D. from Atlanta University (now CAU) in the Summer of 1980, but I began my matriculation there in the Fall of 1972.

I was recruited to the program by Dr. Jones who called me after I had completed my M.A. from the University of Iowa. I had 12 hours that I could apply to my Ph.D. if I stayed at Iowa, but I was not happy there. He told me that he had started a new Ph.D. program at Atlanta and was looking for students like me—Black students who had completed their master's program and were looking for a program that was intellectually stimulating and culturally sensitive. After conversing with him and reading about the program, I decided to apply.

Dr. Jones is a true leader who recruited intellectuals who were concerned about more than regurgitating theories developed by culturally incompetent researchers. He challenged us to think, to question, and to use our knowledge and research findings to improve the world that we had inherited. He molded us into a family that cared about each other, but he taught us to question and interrogate our sisters and brothers as we searched for new ways of viewing political systems.

The Atlanta University Department of Political Science under his leadership produced students who not only became leading scholars, but they also became elected officials and other public servants, policy analyst and university leaders. Their influence has been felt in the United States and around the world.

I never regretted answering the call from Dr. Jones to come to Atlanta. I have had a diverse career as a college professor, a city government executive, a nonprofit leader, and a university administrator. Dr. Jones has always been available to provide advice and encouragement to me and to my fellow CAU graduates.

I join my fellow alums and others in encouraging you to name the Department of Political Science in honor of Dr. Jones.

Sincerely,

Elsie L. Scott

Elsie L. Scott, Ph.D.
Director

