

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
LAWRENCE JULIUS ("Larry") HANKS, Sr.
(1954 – 2011)

Dr. Lawrence Julius ("Larry") Hanks, Sr. (1954-2011), a tenured associate professor of Political Science at Indiana University, passed away at his Bloomington residence on Thursday, November 10, 2011 after a long and courageous battle against cancer. He was 57 years old.

From 1993 to 1998, Dr. Hanks served as Dean for the Office of African American Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington. In this capacity he led efforts to improve recruitment and retention of black faculty and students. He also institutionalized a variety of programs, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration (with a well-received essay contest for graduate and undergraduate students of Indiana University), which continues to be a vital part of campus life. Upon leaving the Deanship, Dr. Hanks focused on teaching and research in the Department of Political Science, with adjunct status in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

A 1976 *magna cum laude* graduate of Atlanta-based Morehouse College, Dr. Hanks entered Harvard University's Department of Government, where he earned his M.A. degree in 1978 and Ph.D. in 1984. At Harvard, he specialized in African American Politics, Minority Politics, Political Philosophy and African American Political Thought. Dr. Hanks subsequently became chairman of the Department of Political Science at the historic Tuskegee University in Alabama, currently headed by Dr. Gilbert L. Rochon.

During his career, Dr. Hanks was invited by several academic institutions, including the University of Kentucky, to deliver keynote addresses and serve as a visiting professor. He was a nationally recognized scholar, dedicated teacher and powerful motivational speaker. His seminal work, *Black Political Empowerment in Three Georgia Counties* (University of Tennessee Press, 1987), is still used as a text on several university campuses. Dr. Hanks also co-edited *Black and Multiracial Politics in America* (NYU Press, 2000) and wrote several journal articles, book chapters and book reviews. He regularly contributed essays on race relations to local and regional newspapers.

A believer in the power of positive thought and healthy living, Dr. Hanks was passionate about realizing our human potential. As a motivational speaker, he brought inspiration and clarity to his presentations. His published trade publications included *365 Days of Kwanzaa: A Daily Motivational Reader*; *Daily Fruit: 365 Days of Fruit of the Spirit*, as well as *Blessings and Bush Arbors*.

On the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Dr. Hanks mentored students and junior faculty members. He and his wife Diane, assistant principal of a local middle school, opened their home to residents and out-of-town visitors to the Bloomington and Indianapolis area, creating a strong sense of community in the process.

Dr. Hanks was an active volunteer for varied causes. He served as a reviewer for and consultant to the National Endowment for Humanities, U.S. Department of Justice, and several statewide organizations in his native Georgia and Alabama. In addition to extensive travels in the U.S. for research and lecturing, Dr. Hanks was a member of the "People to People" delegations from the United States to Russia, China and Poland.

Dr. Hanks was a devoted life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., having been initiated into the Pi Chapter at Morehouse College on November 19, 1973. He was a member of several professional organizations, including the American Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, and the National Council of Black Political Scientists. All of his colleagues and friends will

miss Larry's debating skills and his unswerving commitment to the improvement of race relations and the human condition.

Dr. Hanks is survived by his wife, Diane, and four children: Shonda, Julius, Mahogany and Joy, all of Bloomington. Contributions in honor of Larry may be made to the Dr. Lawrence J. Hanks, Sr. Memorial Fund, Office of Institutional Advancement, Morehouse College, Gloster Hall, Room 305, 830 Westview Drive S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

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