

HOWARD UNIVERSITY Charter Day Convocation

*Commemorating the
One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Anniversary
of the
Founding of the University*

1867-2003

FRIDAY, MARCH SEVENTH
TWO THOUSAND THREE
ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
CRAMTON AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Howard University is a living symbol of the determination of a people to free themselves of oppression so that they and their posterity can meet the responsibilities of society, as well as enjoy the fruits of life, liberty, happiness, and security.

Since its founding in 1867 as one of the major instruments to assist in healing the wounds created by civil strife and to right the wrongs caused by generations of bondage, Howard has graduated more than 60,000 men and women in the professions, the arts, the sciences, and the humanities. Howard has produced, and continues to produce, a high percentage of the nation's black professionals in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, nursing, architecture, religion, law, music, social work, and teaching.

Dedicated to the task of educating its students for a socially intelligent and morally responsible life, Howard University, as a matter of history and tradition, has a special responsibility for the education of capable black students disadvantaged by the system of racial discrimination. The University has the additional responsibility for a continuous comprehensive study of disadvantaged persons in American society so that it can contribute to the prevention, amelioration, and removal of disabilities by race and color, or social, economic, and political circumstances.

As the only truly comprehensive university with a predominantly black constituency, Howard is one of the major engineers of change in our society. Through its traditional and adventuresome academic programs, the University seeks to reduce the distance between peoples and races in the search for peace and justice on earth.

Howard exhibits to the world a culture that defies deprivation. It trains men and women to use the law to seek social justice and the preservation of human liberty. It produces men and women who regard a healthy body and a healthy mind as a human right and not a privilege. In each of its 12 schools and colleges, Howard University seeks to develop the new knowledge and fashion the new social technology that will produce technically competent and morally committed individuals.

The main campus of Howard has grown from a single-frame building to more than 89 acres, including the six-story, 500-bed Howard University Hospital. Since 1974, the University has expanded to include a 22-acre West Campus on which the School of Law is located, a 22-acre School of Divinity campus and another three-fifths of an acre facility in northeast Washington, and a 108-acre tract of land in Beltsville, Maryland.

The University's libraries contain more than 1.8 million volumes, including the Channing Pollock Collection. Another significant library resource is the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, which has one of the world's largest and most comprehensive black research collections.

The University radio station, WHUR-FM, serves the Washington area and is a broadcast training laboratory for students. The University television station, WHUT-TV, Channel 32, has been in operation since November 17, 1980, and a new broadcast facility has been constructed. The station serves the needs of students and the wider community.

The Howard University Press was formally organized in 1972. By 1974, the Press had published its first six books. Since that time, the Press has published books in a variety of disciplines, including history, humanities, and education.

The University offers 19 varsity sports for men and women, including basketball, football, soccer, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, volleyball, bowling, and indoor, outdoor, and cross-country track.

Howard is regarded as one of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the United States. Current enrollment approximates 11,000 students who come from virtually every state, the District of Columbia, and 108 countries. The University traditionally has had the largest gathering of black scholars in the world on its faculties.

The Convocation Program

Presiding

H. PATRICK SWYGERT

President, Howard University

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

(Audience, Please stand.)

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

THE WAR MARCH OF THE PRIESTS

THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

THE INVOCATION

THE REVEREND DOCTOR BERNARD L. RICHARDSON

Dean of the Chapel

THE REMARKS

Mr. Swygert

THE MUSIC

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Solo: "*The Sorrows of Death*"

Keith Craig, Tenor

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR WITH ORCHESTRA

J. Weldon Norris, Conducting

THE INTRODUCTION OF ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

RENEE HIGGINBOTHAM-BROOKS, ESQ.

Law and Community Service

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, JR.

Public Service

DR. MADISON F. RICHARDSON

Medicine and Community Service

THE HONORABLE EMMET G. SULLIVAN

Law and Community Service

MR. EDWARD T. WELBURN, JR.

Art and Corporate Service

THE CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE

Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*

THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus

U.S. Congressman—Seventh Congressional District of Maryland

THE RECIPIENT WILL BE PRESENTED BY

Dr. Floretta Dukes McKenzie

Vice Chairwoman, Board of Trustees

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ORATOR

Jennifer J. Cummings

Class of 2003

THE ADDRESS

Dr. Cummings

THE SPIRITUAL

HALL JOHNSON, Arr.

AIN'T GOT TIME TO DIE

John Pollard, Baritone

The University Choir

THE ALMA MATER

THE BENEDICTION

(Audience, Please stand.)

THE RETIRING OF THE COLORS

THE ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

(Audience, Please remain standing.)

The Speaker



THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
*Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus
United States Congressman—Seventh Congressional
District of Maryland*

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that “everyone can be great because everyone can serve.” Congressman Elijah E. Cummings has dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he is sworn to represent. Elected to the United States House of Representatives in April 1996, in a special election for Maryland’s 7th Congressional District, Congressman Cummings was re-elected with 73 percent of the vote on November 12, 2002.

Now in his fifth term in Congress, Congressman Cummings is the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. He serves on the House Government Reform Committee, is the Ranking Member of the Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee, and is a member of the Wellness and Human Rights Subcommittee. Congressman Cummings also serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Subcommittee on Highways & Transit, and the

Subcommittee on Railroads. In addition to his standing committee assignments, Congressman Cummings is the co-chair of the House AIDS Working Group, and is a member of the House Task Force on Health Care Reform.

Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Cummings served in the Maryland House of Delegates for 16 years. In the Maryland General Assembly, he served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus and was the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tem, the second highest position in the House of Delegates.

Congressman Cummings graduated with honors from Baltimore City College High School in 1969. He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he served as Sophomore Class President, Student Government Treasurer and Student Government President. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1973 with a degree in Political Science. Mr. Cummings then graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976 and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December, 1976. He practiced law for nineteen years before entering Congress.

Congressman Cummings serves on numerous Maryland boards and commissions including the Morgan State University Board of Regents, the Baltimore Zoo Board of Trustees, the Baltimore Aquarium Board of Trustees, the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors and the Dunbar-Hopkins Health Partnership Executive Board.

In addition to his many speaking engagements, he writes a bi-weekly column for the Baltimore *Afro-American* newspaper.

An active member of New Psalmist Baptist Church, Congressman Cummings lives in the Madison Park community of Baltimore City. He is the father of two lovely daughters, Idea and Jennifer, a student in the Class of 2003 at Howard University.

Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

RENEE HIGGINBOTHAM-BROOKS, ESQ.

Renee Higginbotham-Brooks, Esq., is sole proprietor of the Law Office of Renee Higginbotham-Brooks in Fort Worth, Texas, where she has been practicing law since 1977, specializing in Municipal Bond Issuance for the last decade. The Law Firm is testimony to her belief that anything is possible if you believe you can do it. The highly successful law firm also specializes in urban strategic planning, advises a diverse roster of corporate clients, and is one of only a few female-owned firms in municipal bond financing.

Her firm continues to place among the top bond counsel firms in the southwest because of her extensive knowledge and remarkable success, according to Thomson Financial Securities. Ms. Higginbotham-Brooks serves as co-bond counsel for the City of Fort Worth, City of Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the Texas Turnpike Authority, and the Alliance Airport Authority.

She graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, with a B.A. degree in Political Science from Howard University and received her J.D. from Georgetown University School of Law.

Her legal experience includes ten years of federal regulatory litigation in social security and labor issues. She was an Assistant Regional Attorney for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provided legal counsel and handled litigation for the Health Care Financing Administration (Medicare and Medicaid), the Social Security Administration, the Public Health Service, and the Regional Personnel Office.

Ms. Higginbotham-Brooks continues to play a significant role in advancing the role of women and African Americans in Texas. She was the first African American and female Board Chair of the powerful three-member Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission which regulates the \$9 billion industry and was appointed by former Texas Governor Ann Richards. She also served as a member of the prestigious Texas Department of Commerce Commission directing economic development initiatives for the state.

Ms. Higginbotham-Brooks has received numerous awards including The National Dental Association 2002 Excellence Award, the NAACP Thurgood Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Service to the Community, Quest for Success Award by the Dallas Morning News, and Outstanding Woman of the Year by the City of Fort Worth.

Her community work is evident through her membership in various organizations including the Links, Inc., NAACP, Women's Political Forum, Tarrant County Democratic Party, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and United Negro College Fund. She also offers her legal expertise to the public through local cable, radio and television shows, *Personal Injury Report*, *Ask A Lawyer*, and *The People's Law* in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Renee Higginbotham-Brooks is the mother of two daughters, Leigh and Codie Brooks.



THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, JR.

The Honorable William A. Johnson, Jr. was elected the 64th Mayor of the City of Rochester, New York's third largest city, in November 1993, receiving over 72% of the vote. It was his first run for any political office, and he succeeded a 20-year incumbent. In November 1997, he was re-elected, running unopposed in both the primary and general elections. In November 2001, he was re-elected to a third term with over 78% of the vote.

Prior to his election, he served for 21 years as the President and CEO of the Urban League of Rochester, where he was responsible for developing and overseeing a number

of innovative programs in education and youth development, family services, employment training, and housing development. Among the more innovative programs were: Salute to Black Scholars; Black Scholars Endowment Fund; Urban League Economic Development Corporation; and Campaign to Reduce Racial Polarization.

Mr. Johnson increased the League's programs from five to twenty-nine, and the annual budget from \$550,000 to \$4.5 million during his tenure. The Rochester League was one of only three of the 114 affiliates that received United Way allocations in excess of \$1 million annually.

As Mayor, Mr. Johnson has continued his tradition of innovative programs, including: Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Program; Neighborhood Empowerment Teams; Community Economic Development; Community Oriented Policing; Good Grades Pay; and The Biracial Partnerships.

Mayor Johnson places a high priority on the reform of his City's public schools, continuing work that was begun at the Urban League. Educational Excellence is one of the eleven campaigns included in Rochester 2010, and the Mayor knows that no city can be truly revitalized without the turnaround of its educational system.

Mayor Johnson is a political scientist by training, earning the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Howard University. At Howard, he was the editor-in-chief of the college newspaper *The Hilltop*, a Falk Fellow in the Political Science Department, and listed in *Who's Who Among Students* in the 1965 edition.

Mayor Johnson, a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, is a trained pianist and organist, and has been a church musician for more than 50 years. He is the father of three daughters, one step-daughter, and four grandchildren, and is the husband of Sylvia A. Johnson, Esq., an assistant U.S. Attorney.



MADISON F. RICHARDSON, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Dr. Madison Richardson is a native of Prairie View, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from Howard University. He did his internship training in Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC; his residency in General Surgery at DeWitt Army Hospital in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia; and his residency in Otolaryngology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dr. Richardson also had a residency fellowship with Dr. Robert Chambers at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Richardson operates his own Otolaryngology practice in Beverly Hills, California and runs the Voice Institute of Beverly Hills, where he attends to the vocal needs of many actors, singers, and other professionals. Prior to operating his own practice, he served as an Associate Dean at the Charles R. Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, California; Chief, Head and Neck Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and Chief, Department of Surgery, Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital in Inglewood, California.

Dr. Richardson has Board Certification with the National Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Otolaryngology. His medical licenses are with the State of California and the District of Columbia.

He has served in several teaching capacities: Assistant Professor of Surgery, USC and UCLA; Chief, Head and Neck Surgery, Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and Director, Head and Neck Anatomy, Uniform Services of the University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. He has also served as consultant to the Surgeon General in Head and Neck Surgery, the NIH Review Committee, the Educational Review Journal, and the National Medical Association Editorial Board.

His community involvement includes the Student Health Organization Compton-Watts Summer Project; Past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Urban

League; Founder of the Los Angeles Music Center; life member of the NAACP; United Way Allocations Volunteer; Past President of the Charles Drew Medical Society; Board of Directors, Cooperative of American Physicians; and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reserve Deputy.

Dr. Richardson is an avid equestrian and his passion for the last twenty years has been Polo. He has played Polo all over the world, and is a founding member of the San Diego Polo Club. He served as the assistant Chairman of Equestrian Medical Events for the 1984 Olympics and served as Governor of the Polo Association for two years.

Dr. Richardson is the father of five daughters: Kelly, Kimberly, Karen, Gaia, and Sophia.



THE HONORABLE EMMET G. SULLIVAN

The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan is a United States District Judge for the District of Columbia appointed by President William Clinton on June 16, 1994. Upon his investiture, Judge Sullivan became the first person in the District of Columbia to have been appointed by three United States Presidents to three judicial positions: appointment by President Ronald Reagan to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; appointment by President George Bush to serve as an Associate Judge of the District of the Columbia Court of Appeals; and appointment by President Clinton to his current judgeship.

Judge Sullivan is a native of Washington, D.C., and attended public schools in the District of Columbia, graduating from McKinley High School in 1964. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Howard University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Howard University School of Law.

In 1973, Judge Sullivan joined the law firm of Houston & Gardner. He subsequently became a partner and was actively engaged in the general practice of law. While in private practice, Judge Sullivan was a member of a number of bar associations, and court advisory and rules committees. He has taught as an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Law, and has served as a member of the visiting faculty at the Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. He is a member of the National Bar Association, the Washington Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, and the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

As an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, he was one of only seven judges in the twenty-four year history of that Court to have served full-time in every division. He served as Deputy Presiding Judge and Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Divisions, as well as chairperson of the Rules Committees of those divisions. Judge Sullivan was featured as the judge in two orientation movies for Superior Court, one of which is shown daily to all prospective jurors; the second movie is used as a learning tool in high schools across the country in an effort to educate students about their future responsibility as jurors.

Judge Sullivan is the recipient of many honors including the Thurgood Marshall Award of Excellence, awarded by the Howard University Alumni Association. He has also been recognized for his achievements by the District of Columbia Public Schools System, the Judicial Administration Division of the American Bar Association, and the District of Columbia Judicial Disabilities and Tenure Commission.

EDWARD T. WELBURN, JR.

Edward T. Welburn Jr. was appointed Executive Director of General Motors Design, Body-on-Frame Architectures in Detroit, Michigan in January 2002. A native of Philadelphia, Mr. Welburn currently resides in Detroit. He received a bachelor's degree from the College of Fine Arts at Howard University in 1972 where he studied both design and sculpture.

Mr. Welburn began his General Motors career in 1972 at the Design Center as an Associate Designer in the Advanced Design Studios. In 1973, he joined the Buick Exterior Studio and was part of the team that designed the all new 1977 Buick Park Avenue and Riviera.

In 1975, he joined the Oldsmobile Exterior Studio and contributed to every design of the highly successful Cutlass Supreme since the 1978 model year, and later to the Cutlass Ciera and Calais. In 1985, Mr. Welburn was part of the team responsible for the design of the Indianapolis 500 Pace Car, the Oldsmobile Calais that led to his design of the Oldsmobile Aerotech, which was driven by A.J. Foyt and later established two world records of more than 257 miles per hour in 1987.

In 1995, Mr. Welburn and his design team designed the Oldsmobile Antares Concept Car selected by *Auto Week* magazine as "The Best Concept Car of the 1995 North American International Auto Show" and had a major influence on his next project, the Oldsmobile Intrigue selected by *Auto Week* magazine as the "The Most Significant Car" of the 1996 North American International Auto Show.

The awards were an exciting way for Mr. Welburn to end his twenty-year association with Oldsmobile and begin his assignment at Saturn. The two-year Saturn assignment led to an international assignment at Adam Opel AG, a subsidiary of GM, in Russelsheim, Germany, for one year where he represented General Motors North American Operations on a global design project.

On his return to the United States, Mr. Welburn was appointed Director of GM's Corporate Brand Center in Warren, Michigan. His team had the responsibility for the development of all auto show concept vehicles for General Motors. His most recent projects include the Hy-Wire, drivable fuel cell concept vehicle that debuted at the 2002 Mondial de L'Automobile Motor Show in Paris; the Chevrolet Bel Air and the Autonomy fuel cell concepts that were revealed at the 2002 North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Another recent concept, the Chevrolet SSR, debuted at the 2000 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, and will start production later this year.

Mr. Welburn's newly created position as Executive Director of General Motors Design Body-on-Frame Architectures enables his team to work closely with GM Engineering to execute designs as part of the recently created Advanced Vehicle Development Group. In this position, he now has responsibility for GM's three design studios dedicated to design and development of utility and truck products at the Design Center in Warren, Michigan.

Mr. Welburn is married to Rhonda, also a graduate of Howard University, and they have two grown children.

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Alma Mater

Reared against the eastern sky
Proudly there on hilltop high,
Far above the lake so blue
Stands old Howard firm and true.
There she stands for truth and right,
Sending forth her rays of light,
Clad in robes of majesty;
O Howard, we sing of thee.

Be thou still our guide and stay,
Leading us from day to day;
Make us true and leal and strong,
Ever bold to battle wrong.
When from thee we've gone away,
May we strive for thee each day.
As we sail life's rugged sea,
O Howard, we'll sing of thee.

– Words, J. H. Brooks, '16

– Music, F. D. Malone, '16

THE MACE

THE MACE is the ceremonial symbol of the University and is carried by the University Marshal, Dr. Gary L. Harris, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Associate Director of the Materials Science Research Center of Excellence. One of the earliest visual images of the mace is on the front-side of the “Narmer Palette” of Ancient Egypt, an oval-shaped cosmetic palette inscribed with human and anthropomorphic figures. King Narmer is depicted on the palette as a mighty conqueror wielding a mace over a symbolic enemy. King Narmer, also known as King Menes or King Midas to the Ancient Greeks, unified Upper and Lower Egypt *circa* 3100 B.C., ushering in the Great Pyramid Building Old Kingdom dynasties (c. 3000-2150 B.C.) of Imperial Egypt. At today's Convocation, the entry of the mace heralds the arrival of the academic procession.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIN OF OFFICE

(The Medallion)

The Presidential Chain of Office, worn by President Swygert, was presented to the University on the occasion of the Centennial Celebration in 1967 by the late Trustee Emeritus Herman B Wells and his mother, Mrs. Granville Wells. The chain symbolizes the current and past holders of the Office of President. The basic material of the chain is sterling silver, plated with hard gold. Both the University Seal and the Centennial Seal are appended to the chain.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies.
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who has by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

— James Weldon Johnson (1900)

Lift Every Voice and Sing was written by the noted black poet and civil rights leader, James Weldon Johnson, for a presentation in celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. The music was composed by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. The song, originally performed in Jacksonville, Florida by children, is often referred to as the “Negro National Anthem” and sung at the opening of various public gatherings.

