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Lee Thornton, Dean
Philip Merrill School of Journalism
1117 Journalism Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dean Thornton:

The leadership of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) would like to extend our deepest condolences to the entire Merrill School of Journalism community after the passing of Dean Reese Cleghorn.

Dean Cleghorn was a man of exemplary integrity in the South during the Civil Rights era, and he was an instrumental figure in NABJ's history.

When we had to leave The Newspaper Center in Reston, NABJ needed an influential, interested key player who could make something happen, and quick. With only a few short months, Dean Cleghorn was the playmaker we needed.

He didn't flinch when NABJ Past President Will Sutton posed the idea of a move to the Maryland campus, instead he embraced an idea that so mellifluously tied in with his work to increase minority enrollment at the journalism school. Dean Cleghorn understood the importance, and the power, of the National Association of Black Journalists and he made it happen.

With his help, NABJ moved into a relatively low-cost place that has been our home and the center for our work on behalf of black journalists, black students and coverage of black issues.

Without his help and leadership at the Merrill College of Journalism, we would not be afforded the great opportunity that the state-of-the-art Knight Hall will soon afford us.

With great sorrow, we pause to commend a great man who will forever be part of our history.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ciara
President



Karen Wynn Freeman
Executive Director