

JAMES C. REESE

(1911-1978)

James C. Reese was more than an educator. Every moment of his career was a testimony to a man who lived education, and he left behind a legacy of achievement for the hundreds of students he influenced during his lifetime.

Born in Devereaux, Georgia, in 1911, Mr. Reese began his career in the classroom as a teacher. With a high school and college diploma from Morris Brown, Mr. Reese later took on the principalships of several schools in Wrightsville, Americus and Waycross, where he served as principal of Center High for 19 years. He earned a master's degree from Atlanta University and did post graduate study at North Carolina State College in Durham.

In 1963 Mr. Reese came to Albany State College, where his career remained close to the students he led so well. He served as Dean of Students, and as an associate professor, he directed the Hazard Laboratory School. He also served as the director of Upward Bound, a program aimed at helping students reach the goal of higher education. Later he earned the ranks of Professor of Education and Professor Emeritus upon his retirement.

Mr. Reese was affectionately known to his friends as "Big Jim." In 1963 he married Alma Varnadore Reese, who is currently an associate professor of English at Albany State College.

When Mr. Reese was not in the classroom, his activities stayed focused on education. In 1953 he became the second President of the Georgia Teachers and Education Association, becoming the spokesman for more than 10,500 teachers in the state at a strategic moment in the history of the organization. He also served three terms as the Vice President and President of the Georgia Interscholastic Association.

Mr. Reese was a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts and served as District Chairman of that organization. He held many positions of public trust, serving with the Cancer Society, Red Cross, United Funds Agency, the Masonic Lodge, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, where he was a steward.

The quality of Mr. Reese's work in education did not go unnoticed. His awards and citations for excellence were numerous. In 1975, three years before his death, he was elected to the Morris Brown College Hall of Fame, and in that same year he received the Dennis Memorial Award at Albany State College, recognition for outstanding leadership and dedication to education.

Dedication Speaker

CHARLES B. WRIGHT

As the vice president for institutional advancement at Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland, Charles B. Wright is responsible for managing the college's fund raising and public relations efforts. After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from Coppin State, he served as assistant professor of education and vice president for student affairs before leaving to join the staff of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation at corporate headquarters in White Plains, New York. During his nine-year tenure there he served as the first regional program director, assistant to the vice president for chapters and national director of youth programs.

In 1981 Charles Wright took a leave of absence from the March of Dimes to become the director of institutional advancement at Talladega College, responsible for the college's five-million dollar capital campaign. He returned to his alma mater in 1983 to initiate that college's first fund raising efforts.

From 1975 to 1981, Wright was a consultant with the Student Services Institute in Atlanta, where he gained national recognition in the area of student leadership development. During that period Mr. Wright conducted workshops on more than 100 college campuses throughout the United States and in the Caribbean.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Charles Wright is a life member of the NAACP, member of the National Urban League, advisor to the National Student Business League, Past National President of the National Pan Hellenic Council and past International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He was listed as one of *Ebony Magazine's* 100 Most Influential Black Americans in 1980 and 1981.

In December, 1984, Mr. Wright founded and became the president of The Wright Group, a capital development consulting firm presently contracted to secure funds for a \$4.7 million health care facility for senior citizens in Baltimore.

Program

Dedicatory Ceremonies

*Leslie Parrish, President, Board of Managers
Presiding*

ORGAN PRELUDE	Dr. Egbert Bacon College Organist
INVOCATION	Donald Mackey Religious Life Organization
SELECTION	Portia Jackson, Soloist
PRESENTATION OF GUESTS	Dr. C. W. Grant Vice-President for Student Affairs Albany State College
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Victor T. Burke Student Leader
DEDICATORY ADDRESS	Charles Wright Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Coppin State College Baltimore, Maryland
TURNING OVER OF THE KEYS	Ellis, Ricket & Associates Warren Scott, Contractor Representative of the Board of Regents Billy C. Black President Albany State College
THE ALMA MATER	Audience

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Dr. Billy C. Black, Presiding

DEDICATORY STATEMENT	Dr. C. W. Grant
CUTTING OF THE RIBBON	Mrs. Alma Reese
BENEDICTION	Dr. Eugene Sherman

THE JAMES C. REESE STUDENT UNION

The James C. Reese Student Union, Phase I, is a building designed to enhance Albany State College's concept and philosophy for student affairs. The 32 square foot, two-story facility brings together student program and recreational areas. A comfortable, naturally lighted lounge area greets building users. Students have access to bookstore and post office services on the main floor, which also incorporates a vending area and game room.

Ground was broken in March, 1986, for the \$1.8 million building that was designed by Ellis, Rickett and Associates and built by Warren Scott Construction Company. The Reese Union displays stunning murals of the Albany State College RAM mascot in several locations, including the multi-purpose room, an area that houses campus receptions, lectures, dances and even registration.

The second floor of the facility holds administrative offices, student government offices, study areas and television viewing rooms.

Visitors are encouraged to tour the facility during their stay on the Albany State College campus.

THE ALMA MATER

Albany State, we dearly love you
Whose walls are inscribed with
knowledge so true
So solidly built on this foundation--
A union of work and inspiration.
Teacher for those who strive for success;
To thee we give praises above all the rest.

Thy jubilant colors of blue and gold
We'll ever honor--ever behold;
Thy name is an anchor upon life's sea,
And sailing, we put our trust in thee.
In thee, dear school, we see all the best,
To thee we give praises above all the rest.

Gladys Ward McCullough '46

Albany State College

Albany, Georgia 31705

A Unit of the University System of Georgia

School Of Arts And Sciences

July 9, 1987

Dr. C. W. Grant
Dean for Student Affairs
Albany State College
Albany, Georgia 31705

Dear Dean Grant:

Your recent letter informing me that the Student Union Building presently under construction on our campus will be named for my late husband, James C. Reese, overwhelms me with pride and gratitude.

I am proud that Albany State College and the Board of Regents believe that Jim merits this recognition, and I am especially grateful to you, Dean Grant, for your commitment to making this tribute to Jim's name a possibility.

Yours sincerely,

Alma Reese

Alma Reese, Assistant Professor
Department of English and Modern
Languages

AR:maw



ALBANY STATE COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1903
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31705

OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR STUDENT
AFFAIRS

July 1, 1987

Mrs. Alma L. Reese
235 Sunrise Drive
Albany, GA 31701

Dear Mrs. Reese:

I am pleased to share the enclosed with you from the Vice Chancellor's office giving approval of our request to name our new student union building the "James C. Reese Student Union Building."

We will advise you as to when the official ceremony will take place.

Peace, and may the Maker of the Force be with you.

Sincerely,

C. W. Grant
Vice President for Student Affairs

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cc: Dr. Billy C. Black
Ms. Jackie Ryan
Mr. Terry Willis