



A Message
from the **PRESIDENT**

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

Dear Yellow Jacket Nation:

I write with sad news regarding the passing of West Virginia State University alumnus, Judge Damon J. Keith, Class of 1943. Judge Keith, for whom our scholars residence hall is named, was one of the nation's longest-serving federal judges, and was a legendary champion of civil rights and civil liberties during his tenure on the bench.

He served as a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and a former United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Keith presided over several historic landmark cases, and the intellectual deliberations that he gave to each of these legal cases challenged and changed the moral compass of our nation. He never backed down from doing what was right. He understood the profound impact of his decisions and the power of his "Example."

We all should be honored to have known Judge Keith, and to have him associated with our beloved University. Judge Keith lived an incredible life. One that inspired men and women across West Virginia, Michigan and throughout our nation. His life and legacy embodied the true essence of a West Virginia State University graduate. In a time when African-American lawyers were given limited opportunities, he possessed a mindset that knew no limits, and he refused to settle for being defied by others' narrow views and restricted expectations.

Judge Damon J. Keith was a trailblazer, and on behalf of the entire Yellow Jacket Nation, we send our deepest condolences to his daughters, family and friends. Judge Damon J. Keith will be greatly missed, and we as a nation will continue to benefit from his time on this earth and the bench.

Best regards,

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President

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