

Southwestern Christian College

Office of the President



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENT-EMERITUS JACK EVANS, SR. HAS DIED

Terrell, Texas—On Friday, November 1, 2019, in the quiet hours before daybreak, Dr. Jack Evans, Sr., the longest serving college president in America, made his transition following a lengthy illness. His family was at his side.

Dr. Evans was a native Texan, born in Houston and blessed with a gift from God. He was one of a handful of talented gospel preachers who studied under the great Marshall Keeble at the Nashville Christian Institute. After graduation, Evans enrolled at Southwestern, where he graduated in 1959.

From the age of 16, Evans had been a towering figure in the pulpit. As his education and training continued, at several institutions, his reverent booming voice became one of his most recognizable instruments. Word of his undeniable prowess in the pulpit and his impressive knowledge of the Bible preceded Evans wherever he traveled. His popularity skyrocketed. Everyone who saw or heard Jack Evans knew this man was something special.

In 1963, the former student enthusiastically accepted positions at his alma mater as dean and history instructor. Four years later, Dr. Evans' hard work catapulted him onto the national stage—as a preacher and a *president*.

In 1967, Dr. Evans was appointed president of Southwestern Christian College, making him the first African American to ever hold the position. Evans would remain President nearly **50 years**, until his retirement at the end of 2016. At that time, the SwCC Board of Trustees named Evans our beloved “President-Emeritus.”

Under his leadership, Evans helped place Southwestern, and the city of Terrell, Texas, on the map. In 1973, the College earned its full accreditation and the student population soared. Evans presided over more national SwCC Lectureships than any other administration, helping to plan and execute an annual event that brought supporters and donors from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, from across Texas and the world, to the little campus in Terrell.

Thousands of prominent ministers, church workers, former board members, heartbroken alumni, our students, and Churches of Christ across America, all join with the Southwestern Christian College family to mourn a giant and his legacy.

Dr. Evans is preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Evans. They raised three sons: Jack, Jr., Herbert, and David. To them, and to the entire Evans family, we send our love, prayers, and heartfelt condolences. There will never be another Jack Evans, Sr.

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