

Memorial Services

For the Late

Dr. George M. Gore, Jr.

FIFTH PRESIDENT
OF
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY



1901 - 1982

Tuesday, September 14, 1982

12:00 Noon

Charles Winter Wood Theatre

Florida A&M University

Tallahassee, Florida

PROFILE AND COMMENTARY ON

Dr. George W. Gore, Jr.

PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY, 1950-1968

by **ROBERT L. ALLEN**

"The Gore Years."

Three little words with colossal import. Often heard among oldtimers at the University, the words describe a man, an uncommon man, and his special time in history. The man guided Florida A&M University through the turbulent years of socio-educational change in the country.

It was ironical that on a hill far from the center of the nation's crucial decisions, there occurred an historical event just as significant in its context as *Brown vs the School Board of Topeka*, The Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Act, were in theirs.

The modern era of Florida A&M University, coming out of a long history of slow evolution, was born during that period at the hands of Dr. George W. Gore, Jr. Forevermore, he would be an uncommon man.

The scholarly Tennessean, who had earned a niche in the education world in his 27 years as a teacher, director of the graduate school and dean at Tennessee State University, became president of Florida A&M University on April 1, 1950.

In the ensuing 18½ years, things really happened. Florida A&M experienced its most rapid growth during "The Gore Years." Twenty-three buildings were erected; the A&M Hospital was completed; academic offerings multiplied; the enrollment jumped to 3,500; the four-quarter plan was implemented; the staff increased to more than 500; the University was among the first group of black institutions admitted to full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; and full accreditation was received from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The conversation of those oldtimers, however, always returns to that o-n-n-e remarkable achievement . . . the birth of a University. By legislative statute, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College was elevated to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The year—1953.

In retrospect, Dr. Gore's accomplishments were predictable even before he took the helm at FAMU. He had established a track record as a founder, innovator, and prototype of sort. The reputation and the accomplishments continue even now.

Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society members know him as founder of their organization (1937). He was executive-secretary of that organization.

In addition to positions at Tennessee State, Dr. Gore held the following other posts: President of the American Teachers Association (1949-1951); President of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (1950-51); President of Grand Sire Archon, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (1954-56);

President of the Association of College Honor Societies (1961-63); Vice President of the National Educational Association (1952-43); Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Florida Civil Defense Commission (1965-68); Member of the

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Program

DR. HERBERT C. ALEXANDER, Presiding
Associate Professor, Administration and Supervision
Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church

PRELUDE

DR. MARY W. ROBERTS, Pianist

INVOCATION **Rev. A. J. Richardson**
Pastor, Bethel A. M. E. Church

SCRIPTURE **Rev. C. C. Cunningham**
Director, Placement Bureau
Pastor, First Baptist Institutional Church

MUSICAL SELECTION **University Concert Choir**
VERNON SMITH, Director

REFLECTIONS:

Dr. Leedell Neyland, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Evelyn B. Martin, Professor
College of Education

Rev. M. G. Miles, President
FAMU National Alumni Association
Pastor, Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church

MUSICAL SELECTION **University Concert Choir**

IN MEMORIAM **Dr. Walter L. Smith**
President, Florida A&M University

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PROFILE AND COMMENTARY ON Dr. George W. Gore, Jr.

(CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT PAGE)

Southern Regional Education Board (1950-68); Visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer, George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee (1968-71); Consultant, Triangle Association of Colleges, Columbia, S. C. (1971-72).

Dr. Gore was also a member of the Associated Consultants in Education, Tallahassee; member of the Executive Committee of the Trustee Board, Florida Memorial College; a consultant in Adult Education, Alabama State University; director of the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company, Nashville, and a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Gamma Mu, Alpha Kappa Mu, Beta Kappa Chi, and Alpha Phi Alpha.

He wrote the following works: *The Negro Press*, "The In-Service Professional Improvement of Negro Public School Teachers," and educational monographs and articles for leading journals. He co-authored a *Handbook for Adult Basic Education*, which grew out of a special assignment he had at Alabama State University.

A journalist, educator and administrator, Dr. Gore got his preparation at some of the best institutions in the country. He earned his A.B. degree from DePauw University, his Ed.M. from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He did other graduate work at the University of Chicago and held honorary degrees from DePauw (LL.D.), the University of Miami (Florida) (LL.D.), and the University of Florida (Litt.D.).

No oldtimer would talk about the "The Gore Years" without mentioning two endearments. One was "Sunshine Manor," the edifice that Dr. and Mrs. Gore (Pearl) turned into a beacon of warmth to students, faculty, staff, administrators, and friends of FAMU. The light forever shone at Sunshine Manor. For the newcomers, Sunshine Manor is now the University Counseling Center.

Then there was the declaration that became the campus chant at Rattler football games. Dr. Gore, standing in front of his familiar eastside seat near the entrance, would pronounce at every half-time in Bragg Stadium, "The Rattlers will Strike, Strike, and Strike Again." The stands would rock with noise. Invariably, the football team proved him right.

In 1968, Dr. Gore retired as president of the University. Immediately, his successor, Dr. B. L. Perry, Jr., recommended him for the first emeritus position at the University. The Board of Regents approved, and Dr. Gore became President Emeritus of Florida A&M University.

He and Mrs. Gore moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where their daughter, Dr. Pearl Gore Dansby, is chairman of the psychology department at Tennessee State.

Contemporary FAMUans stand on his shoulders. His past guaranteed FAMU's present and future. His vision became FAMU's reality. George W. Gore, Jr. Surely, he was an uncommon man.