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**Former U. S. Congressman to close Jarvis Black History Month Celebration**

Jarvis Christian College will close out their Black History Month celebration with featured speaker the Honorable Ron Dellums, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, in the Smith-Howard Chapel beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Dellums, the former mayor of Oakland, California, is the first African-American to represent California in Congress. The Oakland native received a BA from San Francisco State University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of California at Berkeley. He also served two years active duty in the United States Marine Corp.

He has worked as a psychiatric social worker, director of a youth center and a consultant prior to his political career. In 1967, he was elected to the Berkeley City Council and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1970. He represented Oakland, Berkeley, and surrounding areas, in Congress for 28 years.

Initially elected in opposition to the Vietnam War, Dellums became a recognized expert in military and foreign policy. He became the leading Congressional voice challenging the underlying assumptions of the military budget and brought forth annual alternative military and full U.S. (recognized by budget experts, including the Administration’s budget director, as the most honest and accurate proposals under debate.)

From his first days in Congress, Dellums authored bills to withhold support from the Apartheid South African regime and it was the Dellums Bill that passed the House and made divestment a U.S. national policy with Congress over-riding a Reagan presidential veto. This divestment pressure helped the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to win the release of Nelson Mandela and his election as President of a democratic South Africa.

*Jarvis Christian College is a historically black liberal arts, baccalaureate degree-granting institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The mission of the College is to prepare students intellectually, socially, spiritually and personally to pursue professional and graduate studies and productive careers and to function effectively as a global and technological society.*