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R. E. LEE MEMORIAL CHURCH

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

THE REV. J. THOMPSON BROWN  
EPISCOPAL CHAPLAIN  
WASHINGTON AND LEE AND V.M.I.

August 24, 1966

*Handwritten signature*

Fred Carrington Cole, Ph.D., LL.D.  
President  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia

Dear Dr. Cole:

The news of two entering Negro freshmen, one an undergraduate and the other a law student, is long awaited and welcome for me, personally, and for many others inside and outside the University.

I am aware of the difficulties involved in working for and achieving this particular step in the progress of Washington and Lee University. I believe that it is a significant step toward Washington and Lee's continued and growing service to American society and trust that it signals a clear intention in the mind of the University to secure and deepen a unique place in higher education.

I am also aware of your patient resolve to widen the University's horizons without unduly disrupting the order of its life. Those of us in my generation sometimes grow impatient, being acutely aware of the accelerating pace of change, but in our more lucid moments recognize the necessity of conserving what needs to be conserved from the past.

I believe that your efforts have been vindicated and wish to express my appreciation. As opportunity presents I hope you will feel free to call on us outside the University in situations where we can be of help and assistance.

Faithfully yours,

*Handwritten signature of J. Thompson Brown*

J. Thompson Brown

JTB/dp



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September 1, 1966,

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your recent letter.

I am especially grateful for your  
offer of help and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Fred C. Cole

The Reverend J. Thompson Brown  
R. H. Lee Memorial Church  
Lexington, Virginia