U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson ’79
to be the 2014 Commencement Speaker

Jonathan L. Walton ’96 to give Baccalaureate sermon

ATLANTA, April 4, 2014 - Morehouse College is pleased to announce that Jeh C. Johnson ’79 will address the senior class during the 130th Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 18, at 8 a.m. on the Century Campus. Johnson is the fourth U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and a member of the class of 1979. He will join President John S. Wilson and the rest of the class of ’79 for their 35th class reunion this year.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Johnson served as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Defense, where he was part of the senior management team and led the more than 10,000 military and civilian lawyers in the department. In that role, he oversaw the development of the legal aspects of the nation’s counterterrorism policies; spearheaded reforms to the military commissions system at Guantanamo Bay; and co-authored the 250-page report that paved the way for the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

Secretary Johnson’s career has included extensive service in national security and law enforcement, and as an attorney in private law practice. He was general counsel for the Air Force from 1998 to 2001 and he served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1989 to 1991.

Before the men of Morehouse cross the stage on Sunday, they will gather Saturday for Baccalaureate, the final spiritual service for the class. Morehouse alumnus Jonathan L. Walton ’96 will deliver the sermon for that service, which will take place on Saturday, May 17, at 3 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Walton is the Pusey Minister of The Memorial Church at Harvard University. He also is the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and a professor of religion and society at Harvard.

For the 2014 Commencement/Baccalaureate/Reunion weekend schedule and other information, go to http://www.morehouse.edu/commencement/index.html. Photos for both Johnson and Walton are attached.

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Morehouse College is the nation’s largest, private liberal arts college for men. The college offers 26 majors in three academic divisions as well programs through the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, the Morehouse Research Institute, Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership, the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and the Journalism and Sports program.

John Silvanus Wilson Jr., the college’s 11th president, has said the central goal of his presidency is to ensure that Morehouse achieves both capital and character preeminence.

Morehouse College was recently recognized as the No. 2 HBCU in the nation for 2014 by U.S. News & World Report; one of American’s Best Colleges by Forbes magazine; and the No. 29 top liberal arts college in the nation by Washington Monthly.

Prominent alumni include Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize winner and civil and human rights non-violent leader; Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General and director of the National Center for Primary Care of Morehouse School of Medicine; Shelton “Spike” Lee, filmmaker and president of 40 Acres & A Mule Productions; Samuel L. Jackson, Academy Award-nominated actor; and Maynard H. Jackson, the first African American mayor of a major Southern city.