



RALPH J. BRYSON

THE ASALH LUMINARY AWARD

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Ralph Bryson served two years with the U.S. Army in the European Theater of Operations in World War II. After his tour of duty, Dr. Bryson attended and graduated from the University of Cincinnati and then earned a doctorate degree from Ohio State University. Near the completion of his doctorate in philosophy, Dr. Bryson met Harper Council Trenholm in Chicago while the latter was recruiting for Alabama State College. Mr. Trenholm asked Dr. Bryson to teach at ASU for the summer of 1953. After the summer semester, Mr. Trenholm offered Dr. Bryson a full-time teaching position at ASC. When Dr. Bryson began his teaching career at ASC, he also became an eyewitness to the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. He was a member of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the pulpit. He witnessed the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott and at its end, he rode the busses in the front seats with his friend Thelma Glass and his colleague Jo Ann Robinson. He was close friends with Ralph Abernathy, who was pole march of the Montgomery Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. In 1962, Dr. Bryson earned the rank of professor at ASU, and he has served in many capacities at the institution. Since 1953 Bryson has served as adviser to ASU's undergraduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and holds a life membership in the fraternity.