

(1911-2003)

Lucile H. Bluford



Editor, the Kansas City Call, working there 70 years. Journalism graduate, University of Kansas, 1933. As an intern, she earned the respect of The Call's founder, Chester Franklin, and editor, Roy Wilkins. Named managing editor in 1937, and later editor of The Call. Ms. Bluford wanted to attend graduate school at the Missouri School of Journalism, but the University did not accept African-Americans. She sued the University, lost two court decisions, then withdrew her case. The University finally acknowledged her distinguished career. She received the Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the Missouri School of Journalism, 1984. In 1989, the University presented her an honorary degree, citing: "You fought valiantly to integrate the University of Missouri as you were to fight for integration for all areas of American life. We are embarrassed that you lost the battle at this University, but today we are proud to add you to our list of laureates . . . at long last."