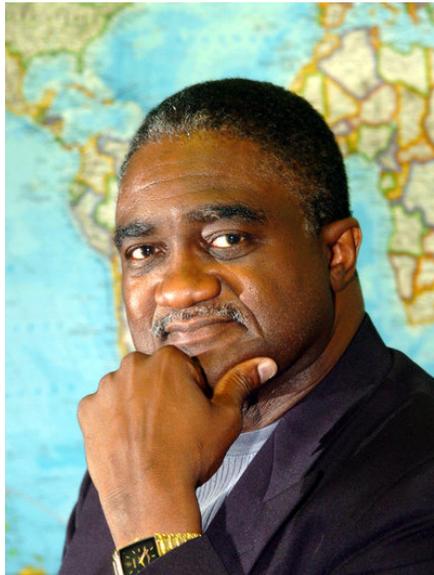


George E. Curry: In Memoriam



George E. Curry (February 23, 1947-August 20, 2016), editor-in-chief for the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service in Washington, D.C. was considered the dean of African American press columnists in the U.S., his weekly commentaries enjoyed wide syndication (200 African American newspapers). He was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; he attended Druid High School where he was a member of the school Board of Trustee and editor of the school paper. After graduating high school, he attended the historically African American liberal arts college, Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee (during two summers, he studied at Yale and Harvard).

Curry began his journalism career at *Sport Illustrated*, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, and then the *Chicago Tribune* and later as contributing editor and columnist for *The St. Louis American*. But he is perhaps best known for his editorship (1993-2000) of *Emerge* magazine (in May 1996, Curry published a 17 page cover story entitled, “Kemba’s Nightmare”, a story about a young lady who had been sentenced to 24 years in prison for a minor drug incident. President Clinton pardoned her in 2000 after hearing and talking with Curry), under his leadership, the magazine won over 40 national journalism awards. He was dedicated to the notion of Black-owned media and he was focused on funding and maintaining the *Emerge* magazine's online publication, Emerge News Online.

Curry was the past president of the American Society of Magazine Editors (the first Black person to hold the association's top office), in 1995 he was named Journalist of the Year by the Washington Association of Black Journalists; after delivering the 1999 commencement address at Kentucky State University, he was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters; in May 2000, Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, also presented Curry with an honorary doctorate after his commencement speech, and later that year, the University of Missouri presented Curry with its Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism; and in 2003, the National Association of Black Journalists named Curry Journalist of the Year. His work in journalism took him to Egypt, England, France, Italy, China, Germany, Malaysia, Thailand, Cuba, Brazil, Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Mexico, Canada, and Austria. In August 2012, he was part of the official US delegation and a presenter at the USBrazil seminar on educational equity in Brasilia, Brazil. Curry is also the author of *Jake Gaither: America's Most Famous Black Coach* (1977) and editor of *The Affirmative Action Debate* (1996) and *The Best of Emerge Magazine* (2003). He was also editor of the National Urban League's 2006 *State of Black America* report.