

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Sheila George**

**Director of Communications& Marketing**

**Wesley Theological Seminary**

**(202) 236-9952 (cell)**

sgeorge@wesleyseminary.edu

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**SLAIN SOUTH CAROLINA SEN. CLEMENTA PINCKNEY’S WIDOW TO RECEIVE HIS POSTUMOUSLY AWARDED DOCTORATE AT MAY 9 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL**

WASHINGTON (May 5, 2016) -The widow of Rev. Clementa Pinckney will accept his posthumously awarded Doctorate of Ministry degree at the Wesley Theological Seminary’s 134th commencement on May 9.

The South Carolina senator (D) was a Wesley Theological Seminary D.Min. student at the time of his hate crime-related assassination with eight of his church members at a Bible study in June 2015 at the historic Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, S.C.

**At the commencement, a letter from President Barack Obama, Rev. Pinckney’s funeral eulogist, will be read to the graduating class, paying tribute to Rev. Pinckney and his posthumous degree.**

**Who:** Jennifer Pinckney, wife of slain South Carolina Sen. Clementa Pinckney

**What:** Posthumous award to Rev. Pinckney and letter from President Obama at Wesley Theological Seminary commencement

**Where:** Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. –

Monday, May 9, 2016

**When:** Mrs. Pinckney will receive the degree from Wesley Theological Seminary President the Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson between 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. during the commencement proceedings, which will run 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**CREDENTIALED MEDIA WILL HAVE A MEDIA OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW MRS. JENNIFER PINCKNEY 12:15-12:45 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT AT THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND A BRIEF PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH MRS. PINCKNEY WITH HER HUSBAND’S UNIVERSITY DEGREE AT THE END OF THE COMMENCEMENT. CHECK IN AT CATHEDRAL MEDIA DESK AT FRONT DOOR TO BE ESCORTED TO MEDIA OPPORTUNITY.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CREDENTIALING, PLEASE CONTACT: Sheila George,** **sgeorge@wesleyseminary.edu** **or call 202-236-9952 (cell) , www.wesleyseminary.edu**