

Leroy H. Johnson, Sr.
***Founder of Cambridge Commu-
nity Center***

Leroy H. Johnson, Sr. died at his home in Cambridge on Nov. 5. He was 88.

Born in Warwick East Parish, Bermuda, he emigrated to this area as at 16.

He was a man of courtly dignity and stature more often associated with another time and culture; yet he played the role of activist and advocate for both young and age in our time.

Johnson's interests were unusually broad-ranging from active participation in the political campaigns of John F. Kennedy and "Tip" o'Neill to a passion for the poetry of Pushkin and the avid study of history. Described by his son as a "tall handsome man of great charm," he was "not ashamed to be seen as a dandy, whether on the dance floor or waltzing along the moonlit Charles."

Leroy was among the early founders of the Cambridge Community Center. He initiated one of the city's first tutorial programs and its first program for handicapped and disabled at St. Bartholomew's Church. Countless African-American, Hispanic and Portuguese young people felt his supportive influence. He was also one of the founders of the original Riverside Association and was central to establishing the elderly housing at 2 Mt. Auburn St.

His last formal position was with the Cambridge Youth Service Bureau as an advocate and protector of youth working with the courts. He was also the city's first liaison to Cambridge High and Latin schools, where his skills in reaching out to young people were well tested during times of tension and unrest. His was a voice respected by authority and heard by youth.

After his retirement, he stayed involved and interested in community affairs. As a close friend commented, "He was loved by most but respected by all."

Johnson was the father of Naia Wilson, Leroy H. Johnson, Jr., Noel F. Johnson and Lorna L. George. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Consent

November 15, 1993

Councillor Sullivan

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of Leroy H. Johnson, Sr., late retired Water Department employee.



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 15, 1993

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WALSH
MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: The true merit of a great man is imbedded in a lifetime of contributions to the amplification and betterment of humankind in all its phases; and

WHEREAS: With the death of Leroy H. Johnson on Friday, November 5, 1993, the Cambridge community lost a stalwart, influential advocate; and

WHEREAS: Leroy H. Johnson's activities and abilities ran the gamut of commitment from attending to the unbridled development of the very young to his supportive and individualistic influence on the elderly; and

WHEREAS: Leroy H. Johnson, ever the notable athlete, excelled in tennis, sailing and cricket among other sports, while continually instilling the virtues and values of good sportsmanship to young people throughout the City; and

WHEREAS: Leroy H. Johnson, a "Man for All Seasons", is numbered among the visionary founders of the Cambridge Community Center, the original Riverside Association, initiation of the City's first tutorial program, established the first handicapped and disabled programs at St. Bartholomew's Church and assisted in the development of the elderly housing at 2 Mount Auburn Street; and

WHEREAS: As an avid protector of youth, Leroy H. Johnson served with distinction as a member of the Youth Services Bureau of Cambridge, worked diligently with the courts and tirelessly as the City's first liaison to Cambridge Rindge and Latin School; and

WHEREAS: Leroy H. Johnson was an outstanding father, grandfather, confidante and friend whose interests embraced political issues, poetry, history and a wide range of diverse subjects; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Cambridge City Council does hereby applaud the worthy, selfless life of Leroy H. Johnson being fully cognizant that his death will leave a deep void in the effective operation of our City agencies.

In City Council November 15, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 15, 1993

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COUNCILLOR WALSH
MAYOR REEVES

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the death of Leroy H. Johnson, Sr. late retired Water Department employee.

In City Council November 15, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

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Druckay, Sullivan
Reeves

Consent Order #4

Walsh

R 364

Councillor Sullivan re: Death
resolution of Leroy H. Johnson, Sr.,
retired Water Dept. employee.

order adopted

In City Council,

November 15, 1993