



City of Cambridge

R-20.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 1, 2000

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the sudden death of Alvin E. Thompson on April 26, 2000 at the age of 60; and

WHEREAS: Alvin was a lifelong resident of Cambridge; he graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School, attended the New England School of Anatomy and Embalming and Roxbury Community College; and

WHEREAS: From 1957 to 1999, Alvin served honorably in the United States National Guard; and

WHEREAS: Alvin was past president and a life member of the Cambridge NAACP. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Arlington, and a former vestry member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: From 1988-1998, Alvin served as a legislator of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he was past Chair of the Transportation Committee, Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and a member of the National Caucus of Black Legislators. After thirty years of service, he retired from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. At the time of his death, he was director of Elder Affairs for the Registry of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS: Earlier in his career Alvin also served the City of Cambridge as the Community Relations Officer; and

WHEREAS: First and foremost in all of his positions and community activities, Alvin was a "bridge-builder" who never stopped trying (and usually succeeding) to help the people who most needed help; and

- WHEREAS: Alvin's legacy lies in the results of his steadfast and unwavering commitment to children, including his key role in the establishment of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School, where young minority children are now excelling in the areas of math, science and technology; and
- WHEREAS: Alvin's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his beloved wife Gloria G. (Grant) Thompson; his children Alvin B., and his wife, Zana M. of Atlanta, Georgia; Hilton E., and his wife, Tia of Cambridge; Hilary W. of Cambridge; two grandchildren LeTaire and Jeciena; his chosen son, Michael Cox; devoted brother George L., and his wife Mary of Bridgewater; three sisters-in-law, Mildred Maines of Randolph, Claudine Bhatti, and her husband Majed of Somerville, Ruby Braxton, his god-daughter and her husband, Thomas of Boston; his Aunt Beryl Boxill of New York; his nieces and nephews, cousins, and a host of relatives, dear friends and co-workers; and
- WHEREAS: Alvin will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Alvin E. Thompson at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Thompson family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council May 1, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

INSERT (1)

W/A Alvin was a lifelong resident of Cambridge; he graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School, attended the New England School of Anatomy and Embalming and Roxbury Community College; and

W/A From 1957 to 1999, Alvin served honorably in the United States National Guard; and

W/A Alvin was past president and a life member of the Cambridge NAACP. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Arlington, and a former vestry member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cambridge.

W/A From 1988-1998, Alvin served as a legislator of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he was past Chair of the Transportation Committee, Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and a member of the National Caucus of Black Legislators. After thirty years of service, he retired from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. At the time of his death, he was director of Elder Affairs for the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

INSERT (2)

W/A First and foremost in all of his positions and community activities, Alvin was a "bridge-builder" who never stopped trying (and usually succeeding) to help the people who ^{most} needed ~~the most~~ help; and

W/A Alvin's legacy lies in the results of his steadfast and unwavering commitment to children,

including his key role in the establishment of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School, where, ~~today~~ young minority children are now excelling in the areas of math, science and technology; and

W/A Alvin's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of his surviving family,

/ his beloved wife, Gloria G. (Grant) Thompson; his children, Alvin B., and his wife, Zana M. of Atlanta, Georgia; Hilton E., and his wife, Tia of Cambridge; Hilary W. of Cambridge; two grandchildren, Le Taire and Jeciena; his chosen son, Michael Cox; devoted brother, George L., and his wife, Mary of Bridgewater; three sisters-in-law, Mildred Maines of Randolph, Claudine Bhatti, and her husband, Majed of Somerville, Ruby Braxton, his god-daughter and her husband, Thomas of Boston; his Aunt Beryl Boxill of New York; his nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of relatives, dear friends and co-workers.

POEM

MY DAD

He had such big hands,
my dad . . .
and a great wide smile
that stretched from here to there.

He loved to buy me ice cream.
Just as much as
he loved to eat it.

There was always
a good parade to go to.
Dad loves parades.

I'm too big to put on his shoulders
now,
so I'll carry him
on mine.

I remember trying on
his big black shoes,
and they'd always fall off
as I tried to walk.

I'm bigger now,
and I can walk
in my dad's shoes!

He was . . . is my friend.
My undying best friend.

We talked about life
for the very first time
as father to daughter,
and I finally understood.

We each spoke about
our goals and plans.
I plan to carry out mine
and his.

I keep seeing myself
looking up to dad.

His hands . . .
such big hands.
I wonder if they'll
still pick me up
if I fall

I'll miss you, dad
but no matter what test of life
may come before me,
I'll always have the love of
my dad.

- Hilary W. Thompson
April 29, 2000

PALLBEARERS

Massachusetts State Police
Cambridge City Police
Boston City Police
Massachusetts Army National Guard

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To our wonderful supporters, neighbors, church family members and friends who on a moment's notice rose to the occasion of caring and sharing. For the many cards, phone calls, offerings and expressions of love in so many different ways, the family appreciates and gives thanks for the love during our bereavement.

INTERMENT

CAMBRIDGE CEMETERY, CAMBRIDGE, MA

REPAST

You are cordially invited to join the Family, Colleagues and Friends
immediately following the interment at the VFW Post, 688 Huron Avenue, West Cambridge, MA
(near Tip O'Neil Golf Course).

Professional Services Entrusted to:

Mrs. J. B. Johnson
J. B. Johnson Funeral Home
196 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA

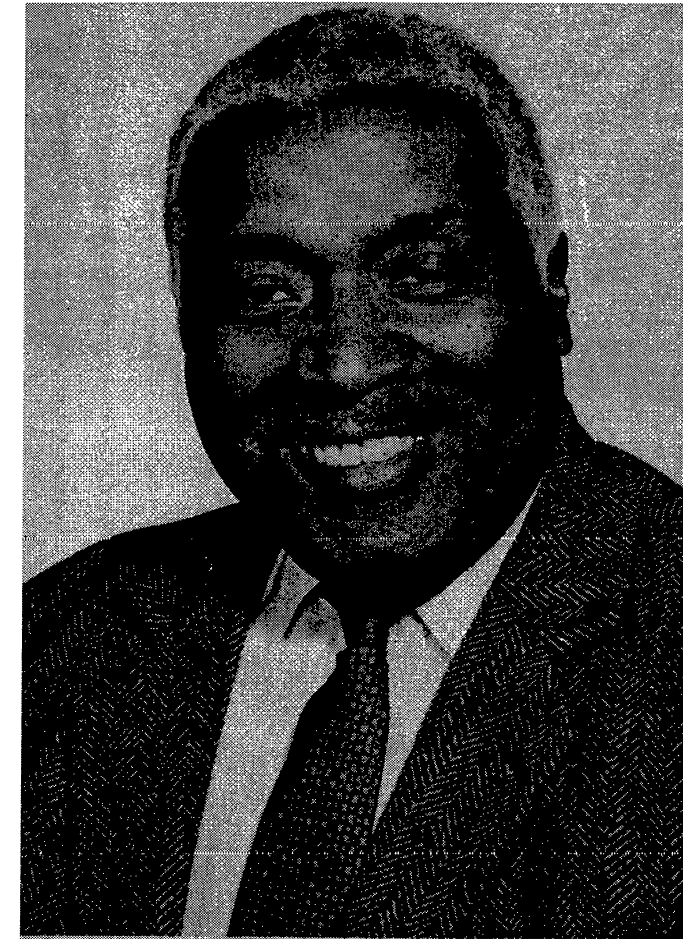
In lieu of flowers, all donations may be sent to The Alvin E. Thompson Scholarship
Fund, The Cambridge Teacher's Federal CreditUnion, 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

ALVIN EUCLYDE THOMPSON

SUNRISE: MAY 15, 1939

SUNSET: APRIL 26, 2000



"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

Psalms 37, Verse 23 KJV

Funeral Services

Tuesday, May 2, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
239 Harvard Street
Cambridge, MA 02139**

**Reverend L. Nelson Foxx, Celebrant
Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey, Preaching**

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING PRAYERS		BCP 491
COLLECT		BCP 493
HYMN	<i>"How Great Thou Art"</i>	LEV# 60
SCRIPTURE READINGS		
OLD TESTAMENT	<i>Psalms 23</i>	
NEW TESTAMENT	<i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</i>	
SOLO	<i>"The Lord's Prayer"</i>	Pamela Woods
GOSPEL		John 14:1-6
HOMILY	The Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey	
OBITUARY/REMARKS		
THE APOSTLES CREED		BCP 496
THE PRAYERS		BCP 497
SOLO	<i>"If I Can Help Somebody"</i>	Pamela Woods
THE COMMENDATION		BCP 499
BLESSING AND DISMISSAL		
CLOSING HYMN	<i>"It is Well with My Soul"</i>	LEV# 188

OBITUARY

Alvin E. Thompson was born on May 15, 1939 to the proud parents of the late Mr. and Mrs. George B. and Leona A. (Boxill) Thompson. With unexpected suddenness on April 26, 2000, at the age of sixty, he departed this life. He was a devoted family man, a dedicated, committed visionary leader and a champion of all causes.

Alvin was a lifelong resident of Cambridge. He graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School, attended the New England School of Anatomy and Embalming and Roxbury Community College.

From 1957-1999, Alvin served honorably with the United States National Guard. He was past president and a life member of the Cambridge NAACP. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Arlington, and a former vestry member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cambridge. From 1988-1998, Alvin served as a legislator of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he was past Chair of the Transportation Committee, Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and a member of the National Caucus of Black Legislators. After thirty years of service, he retired from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. At the time of his death, he was director of Elder Affairs for the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

His wife Gloria said in a phone statement from her home: "I have received many condolences from all over the country. All of them have touched and have given me a sense of peace. One which best summarizes my husband's many contributions to the community was stated by Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Jessie Climenko Professor of Law, Harvard Law School.

"Al was the quintessential statesman. He fed the hungry, provided shelter for the homeless and comforted the suffering. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was his unyielding commitment to children. He shepherded the proposal that led to the creation of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School through difficult and complicated political channels. Today, young minority children are excelling in the areas of math, science and technology because of his early efforts in accomplishing as much as he did over the past two decades. Alvin never compromised his integrity and in the end was a rare public figure who was unbought and unbossed."

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Gloria G. (Grant) Thompson; his children, Alvin B., and his wife, Zana M. of Atlanta, Georgia; Hilton E., and his wife, Tia of Cambridge; Hilary W. of Cambridge; two grandchildren, Le Taire and Jeciena; his chosen son, Michael Cox; devoted brother, George L., and his wife, Mary of Bridgewater; three sisters-in-law, Mildred Maines of Randolph, Claudine Bhatti, and her husband, Majed of Somerville, Ruby Braxton, his god-daughter and her husband, Thomas of Boston; his Aunt Beryl Boxill of New York; his nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of relatives, dear friends and co-workers.

Donna H/26/00 #12 in room
Fred Cabral from Tim Toomey call and want to
put a resolution for the death of Alvin Thompson, who
just passed away - please contact him at this tel. #
772-2230
12:10 add Ken
Bernie

TT
KR
VMT
MS
MAY
HD
4/27 @ 8:35
4/27 @ 8:35

#8

12:20

4/26/00

David
Michael

R-70

Alvin Thompson

THOMPSON—Of Cambridge, April 26, suddenly, Alvin E., former State Representative and Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles, husband of Gloria G. Thompson. Father of Alvin, Hilary and Hilton Thompson. Grandfather of Letitia Jaciana Thompson. Brother of George L. Thompson and sister-in-law Mary S. Thompson. Also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, 3 friends. The viewing will be held Monday, May 1, 2-9 p.m. Family present from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Bartholomew's Church, 239 Harvard St., Cambridge followed by a Funeral Service on Tuesday, May 2 at the Church at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers send donations to Alvin E. Thompson Scholarship Fund, c/o Cambridge Federal Teacher Credit Union. Arrangements made by J.B. Johnson Funeral Home, 196 Warren St., ROXBURY.



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COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
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WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Alvin E. Thompson on April 26, 2000; and

WHEREAS: Alvin was a former State Representative and Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS: Alvin served the City of Cambridge as the Community Relations Officer; and

WHEREAS: Alvin's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Gloria G. Thompson; his children Alvin, Hilary and Hilton Thompson; his grandchild Letaire Jeciena Thompson; his brother and his sister-in-law George L. and Mary S. Thompson; his nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS: Alvin will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Alvin E. Thompson at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Thompson family on behalf of the entire City Council.

472R

Resolution #20

Resolution on the death of
Alvin E. Thompson.
Councillors Toomey, Reeves, Vice
Mayor Maher, Councillor Sullivan,
**Mayor Galluccio, Councillor
Davis and entire membership**

In City Council May 1, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED