

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor Miller

Seconded by: Councillor Davis

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. William (Bill) Joseph Thibedeau on Wednesday, October 7, 2009.

Mr. Thibedeau, born in 1920, was a man who loved his family and his country. He served in World War II with the South Alberta Tank Corp and campaigned in north-western Europe. During the 1950's, Mr. Thibedeau was the President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Lodge 717. He worked on the CF105 Avro Arrow and as President of the Association received notification from the Prime Minister of Canada on February 20, 1959, known as Black Friday, of the decision to abandon the production of the Arrow.

At the age of 50, in 1970, Mr. Thibedeau attended the University of Toronto where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, which was followed by a Bachelor of Education degree in 1979. Later, he completed a Masters in English from Niagara University in New York State.

As a technical teacher at Downsview Secondary School, Mr. Thibedeau found his niche as a teacher and mentor to his students. He was keenly interested in his students and a number of them kept in touch with him over the years; a true tribute to his teaching and mentoring skills.

During his years of retirement, Mr. Thibedeau was a member of the HIV and Aids Committee of Toronto and the John Howard Society. He was also a member of Branch 1 of the Royal Canadian Legion and was an active and well-known member of his community in Beaches-East York.

Mr. Thibedeau was a devoted husband to Phyllis (nee McDougall), and would have celebrated 61 years of marriage this coming December, was a loving father of City Councillor Sandra Bussin, Gary (Linda), Mark (Brenda), and proud grandfather to Ashley Bussin, Danielle, Jillian, Marshall and James Thibedeau. He touched the lives of many and left a legacy of loving life, his family and friends, and its many adventures.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mr. William Joseph Thibedeau's family.

October 26, 2009