

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Janet Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Stanley G. Grizzle on November 12, 2016 in his 98th year.

A former Citizenship Court Judge, railway porter, World War II veteran, political candidate and labour union activist, Mr. Grizzle was a dynamic force in the African Canadian civil rights community.

Born in Toronto to Jamaican parents and the oldest of seven children, Mr. Grizzle grew up to challenge the colour barrier that prevented African Canadians from enjoying equal rights. At age 19, he co-founded the Young Men's Negro Association of Toronto. As a soldier in Europe, Mr. Grizzle challenged the then-common practice of using soldiers of colour as butlers for senior officers. As a railway porter, he helped organize workers under the banner of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, serving as the local chapter's President for 16 years. Constantly agitating for change, in 1954 he led activists to Ottawa to challenge the federal government for a more open immigration policy for Caribbean immigrants to Canada and as a member of the Joint Labour Committee to Combat Racial Intolerance, he focused on ensuring fair treatment for African Canadians in employment and accommodation. He also served as the Toronto chair of the Martin Luther King Fund on projects promoting change through non-violence. In 1960, Mr. Grizzle went to work for the Ontario Labour Relations Board and in 1978 he was appointed a Citizenship Court Judge by Pierre Trudeau.

Mr. Grizzle was the recipient of many honours, including the Order of Ontario in 1990 and the Order of Canada in 1995. In the 1990s, he was inducted into the Labour Hall of Fame and was the recipient of the Harry Jerome Award. In 2007, the City of Toronto named Stanley G. Grizzle Park in his honour and in 2013 he was presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Ontario Government.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Stanley G. Grizzle's family.

December 13, 2016