



REPORT FOR ACTION

Reginald W. Lewis, Major General (Retired) 1930-2019, General Manager and President, Parking Authority of Toronto from 1974-1990

Date: March 6, 2019
To: Board of Directors, Toronto Parking Authority
From: Acting President, Toronto Parking Authority
Wards: All

SUMMARY

Current and past Toronto Parking Authority employees were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of one of our great leaders and a true gentleman, Mr. Reginald W. Lewis. Mr. Lewis served the organization, then known as the Parking Authority of Toronto, as General Manager and President from 1974 to 1990 with unparalleled distinction. He was a guiding force and continues to this day to be remembered as a role model exemplifying the highest standards in every way to which the organization aspires.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting President, Toronto Parking Authority recommends that:

1. The Board of Directors of the Toronto Parking Authority convey, on behalf of all current and past employees of the Toronto Parking Authority, its deepest condolences on the passing of Reginald W. Lewis, General Manager and President, Parking Authority of Toronto from 1974-1990, to Sheila, his wife of 59 years and Mr. Lewis' family.
2. The Board of Directors of the Toronto Parking Authority direct the Acting President, Toronto Parking Authority, to develop a fitting memorial tribute to permanently commemorate Mr. Lewis' stature in the history of the Toronto Parking Authority and the reverence in which he is held to this day by staff who worked under his leadership and guidance and those that knew of him.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

There is no prior decision history associated with this report.

COMMENTS

Reginald Lewis' legacy at what was known at that time as the Parking Authority of Toronto, is not measured in its longevity, which in itself was impressive, but by the impact he had on the organization and those who served with him, both as a man and a leader. In his role, Mr. Lewis guided the organization with class and distinction. Mr. Lewis' contributions, which are many and well documented, extend not only to his exemplary service to the City of Toronto and the Parking Authority (he also served as the inaugural Chair of the newly formed Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) among other important posts), but his long and storied career in military, in service to Canada, and innumerable community organizations serving those in need and less fortunate.

Though his time at the Parking Authority was many years ago, his imprint on this organization has never faded over the intervening years. Those long-serving staff of TPA and others who were mentored by, or had the honour to meet or work in Mr. Lewis' presence attest to his remarkable and unique qualities. At a TPA tribute ceremony in 2016, Mr. Lewis' accomplishments were recognized and celebrated as he was conveyed the distinguished title "Mr. Toronto Parking".

Under his forward-thinking direction, many milestones were achieved by the Parking Authority; to name a few: creation of a number of mixed use car park developments, which at the time was a ground-breaking concept in parking - Yorkville/Cumberland Garage, St. Lawrence Garage, Bloor/Bedford InterContinental Toronto Yorkville Garage and Queen/Victoria Garage. It was during his tenure that the Parking Authority became the first parking operator anywhere to monitor both current and future demands via a computer accessible data system, and all single space meters in the lots were replaced with the newest multi-space control technology - pay-and-display. But most importantly, Mr. Lewis was fondly known as the "People's President". He made it his business to meet his employees in their varied workplaces. He would visit our facilities and staff at all hours - not to check-up and inspect, but to really understand their jobs. Mr. Lewis expected a lot on behalf of our customers, but everyone was treated the same, unfailingly with integrity, dignity and respect.

The last word goes to a dedicated, long-time TPA staff member, Ms. Brenda Lynch, Attendant in our Customer Service group. This heartfelt tribute so eloquently epitomizes the essence of the man and his profound impact on the TPA and the people he touched:

"While reading accolades in a recent TPA publication, a thought crossed my mind. While we must move on, we must not forget our past. When I started working at TPA in 1982, I was proud to be an employee. Namely because of, at that time, our President, Mr. Reginald Lewis. He showed us, by example, about respect and courtesy. We were never in doubt that each and every customer was important. Not just from a monetary point of view, but out of respect.

From an employee's perspective, Mr. Lewis treated us the same. One of the things that kept us on our toes, regardless of the above, was we never knew when he would appear, at any location, be it weekends or evening; also if need be, help us with a situation. It is no easy task to run any organization and please everybody. Mr. Lewis managed it with our affection and respect. Those of us who worked under his tenure, his name is still today spoken with the greatest affection and respect.

Mr. Lewis was one of a kind and I hope TPA can find a way to honour him. If I have any redeeming qualities in how I perform my job, it is by the example of Mr. Lewis, it went all the way down the line." - Brenda Lynch.

CONTACT

Robin Oliphant, Acting President, Toronto Parking Authority
Telephone: 416-393-7282, Email: robin.oliphant@toronto.ca

Andy Koropeski, Vice President of Operations, Toronto Parking Authority
Telephone: 416-393-7266, Email: andy.koropeski@toronto.ca

Ian Maher, Vice President, Parking Strategy, Policy, Planning & Technology,
Toronto Parking Authority, Telephone: 416-393-7291, Email: ian.maher@toronto.ca

Remy Iamonaco, Vice President, Design & Construction, Toronto Parking Authority
Telephone: 416-393-7335, Email: remy.iamonaco@toronto.ca

Arlene Yam Fritz, Head of Human Resources, Toronto Parking Authority
Telephone: 416-393-7283, Email: arlene.yam.fritz@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Robin Oliphant
Acting President, Toronto Parking Authority

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Reginald William Lewis (1930-2019) Obituary

ATTACHMENT 1 - REGINALD WILLIAM LEWIS (1930-2019) OBITUARY

3/5/2019

Reginald LEWIS Obituary: Reginald LEWIS's Obituary by the The Globe and Mail.

Reginald William LEWIS(1930 - 2019)



REGINALD WILLIAM LEWIS Major General (Ret'd.) CM, CMM, CSTJ, CD, CPA 1930 - 2019 At Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on Sunday, February 25, 2019, passed away peacefully in the presence of Sheila, his devoted wife of 59 years. Predeceased by his parents, George and Lillian Lewis, as well as his older brother Kenneth and sister-in-law Dorothy. He will be sorely missed by his younger brother Terrance; nephews Graham (Susan) Lewis and John (Nikki) Lewis and their children in the UK and Australia; his niece Sally Ford (Glenn) and family in Alsace, France; and his nephews in Canada, Patrick (Jane) Rowan and family, and Andrew Rowan. Born in London England, he was evacuated during the Blitz to the west country to further his education and which inspired him to choose accounting as his profession. Major-General Lewis' military career began when he joined his school's Cadet Corps. He joined the British Army in 1948 and served in the Royal Ordinance Corps in The UK, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Eritrea. In 1954 he came to Canada and joined the Militia; subsequently commanded The Toronto Service Battalion, Toronto Militia District, Central Militia Area; later becoming the Chief of Reserves for Canada and Special Advisor to The Minister of Defence (The Honourable Art Eggleton). Following this, he was appointed President of the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers of NATO (CIOR), an organization based in Brussels representing the Reserve Officers of the Alliance. During this period, he received The Commander's Cross of The Polish Order of Merit. Later, he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Canada. In civilian life, he has been the President of the Parking Authority of Toronto, Chairman and CEO of The Toronto Economic Development Corporation and Chairman of Defense Construction of Canada Ltd. He was appointed a director of Parc Downsview Inc. and has served as a Canadian Citizenship Court Judge. Reg was involved in many community organizations: The Home Care Program of Metropolitan Toronto, the Haven (formally The Good Neighbours Club), The Ontario Council of Saint John Ambulance finance), and Toronto's 1984 Sesquicentennial Celebrations (President). He was honoured to be President of The Empire Club of Canada, The Royal Commonwealth Society, The Royal Canadian Military Institute and The Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. The family wishes to express their deepest thanks to caregiver Irene, the staff at K2 Wing Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, Colonel Michael Stevenson and John Legge of the law firm Legge and Legge. The family will receive friends at the Humphrey Funeral Home A.W. Miles - Newbigging Chapel, 1403 Bayview Avenue (south of Davisville Avenue) Friday, March 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Avenue, Toronto, on Saturday, March 9th. Friends are welcome to gather at 12:30 p.m with the service to follow at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Veteran's Comfort Fund, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Room KGW-01, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3M5 or to a charity of your choice. Condolences may be forwarded through www.humphreymiles.com.

Funeral Home

Humphrey Funeral Home A.W. Miles - Newbigging Chapel Limited
1403 Bayview Avenue Toronto, ON M4G 3A8
416-487-4523

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