

Expression of Condolence for Marvin Gord by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Marvin Gord, a Second World War Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal Air Force veteran. Marvin passed away in Toronto on January 28, 2022, at the age of 101.

Marvin was born on December 31, 1920 in Toronto. After graduating high school Marvin planned to study pharmacology however the war interrupted those plans. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Marvin enlisted and was sent for specialized radar training before going overseas to England. He was a Radar Specialist for the Royal Air Force and later the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Marvin served overseas during the Second World War and was a strong believer in education. When the war ended Marvin moved back to Canada, settling in Toronto where he raised a family with his wife Nancy. Marvin went on to complete his degree in pharmacology and obtained several other degrees in psychology, finance and law before becoming a professor at Centennial College.

In his later years, Marvin made national headlines when, at the age of 99, he pledged to raise funds in support of the Baycrest Foundation by walking one million steps in time for his 100th birthday. His campaign helped contribute to enhancing protective measures for patients, residents and staff of Baycrest in the fight against COVID-19. The following year Marvin participated in a similar walk, this time raising funds and awareness in support of combating dementia. He chose Baycrest because his mother was a volunteer there and later a resident in its long-term care home and his wife was cared for in the palliative unit in her final months.

Marvin also participated in the City of Toronto's Remembrance Day Service at Old City Hall where in 2020 he recited the Act of Remembrance and in 2021 he placed a special wreath at the cenotaph commemorating the Year of the Poppy.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Marvin's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and the many people whose lives he touched. We thank him for his service to his country. He will be missed.

February 2, 2022