



# City of Chicago



R2018-688

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:**

6/27/2018

**Sponsor(s):**

Emanuel (Mayor)  
Burke (14)  
Austin (34)  
Sawyer (6)

**Type:**

Resolution

**Title:**

Tribute to late Honorable George N. Leighton

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

50/P



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

June 27, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke, Austin and Sawyer, a resolution concerning the life and memory of George Leighton.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

# A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*  
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by Aldermen Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin, Roderick T. Sawyer and Mayor Rahm Emanuel on June 27, 2018

**Whereas**, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death on June 6, 2018, at age 105, of Judge George N. Leighton. Judge Leighton served the people of Chicago with dedication and distinction for more than six decades, a remarkable tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Leighton was born on October 22, 1912 as George Leitao in Massachusetts. Growing up, he worked with his parents, immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands, in the cranberry bogs. Judge Leighton met his wife, Virginia, and the happy couple was married for nearly 50 years until Virginia's passing in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, At age 17, George Leighton left school to work on an oil tanker. From there, he studied independently and won a scholarship to attend Howard University. After graduating from Howard in 1940, he enrolled at Harvard Law School, pausing his legal studies briefly to serve in the Second World War, before graduating in 1946; and

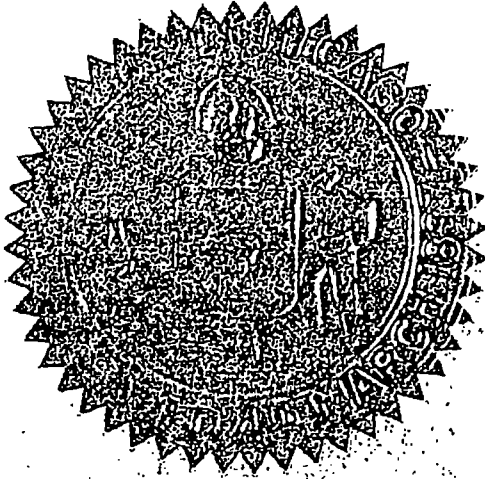
**WHEREAS**, George Leighton served bravely during World War II in the segregated 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, rising to the rank of Captain and earning the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Bronze Star; and

**WHEREAS**, After graduating from law school, George Leighton moved to Chicago and began a stellar career, serving in private law practice where he became a leading civil rights lawyer, representing families and individuals fighting for fair housing and integrated schools; and

**WHEREAS**, George Leighton often took on cases pro bono, including traveling to the south to help protect voting rights in Alabama, ensure jury representation in Mississippi, and assist with other civil rights matters; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1960, Judge Leighton began his work with the judiciary, first serving as Master in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Cook County for four years, and then as a judge for five years with the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1969, he became the first African American to hold the position of district appellate judge in Illinois, when he was appointed to serve on the First District Appellate Court; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Judge George N. Leighton as a token of our sympathy and esteem.



*Ral Emmanuel*

MAYOR

*Andra H. Valencia*

CITY CLERK