



Very truly yours,

# *resolution*

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

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

The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death 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, George Leighton was born in 1912 as George Leitadi in Massachusetts. Growing up in a family of immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands, he was married to Virginia, and the couple was married for 50 years until Virginia's passing in 1992; and

WHEREAS, George Leighton served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, where he was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Judge Leighton practiced law in Chicago and served as a judge on the Chicago Municipal Court. He was also a member of the Illinois Judicial Conference and the American Bar Association.

WHEREAS, Judge Leighton served the City of Chicago with distinction and dedication for more than six decades, a remarkable tenure; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from law school, George Leighton moved to Chicago and became a leading lawyer representing individuals fighting for fair housing and integrated schools;

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 /T 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.