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City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
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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.

Mayor

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 N. 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 Leighton, nee Crandall, in 1937. He and Virginia were married for 50 years until Virginia's passing in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leighton served in the United States Army during World War II, where he was decorated with the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart; and

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Judge Leighton served in the United States Army during World War II, where he was decorated with the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leighton served in the United States Army during World War II, where he was decorated with the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart; and

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

WHEREAS, Judge 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.