



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

From: **Office of the Mayor**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 26, 2015

Mayor Jackson Thanks Community for Remembrance of the Late Congressman Louis Stokes

CLEVELAND – Today, Mayor Frank G. Jackson thanks the community of Cleveland for their support and remembrance of the late Congressman Louis Stokes. Throughout the week, City of Cleveland residents, businesses, media, private and public organizations, along with many members of the Stokes family came together to remember the life of Congressman Stokes.

“I want to thank everyone who took time out of their day to pause, reflect, and pay their respects to the memory and legacy Congressman Stokes,” said Mayor Jackson. “I also want to thank all those involved in the planning and success of the Lying in State, In Appreciation, and Celebration of Life ceremonies. We, as a community, came together with dignity and respect to remember the life of a great man and all he did for our city and nation.”

Again, thank you for your outpouring of love, appreciation, honor and respect for a great man who has so profoundly impacted and changed our world.

-30-

Provided here is a link to the [In Appreciation Ceremony](#) and attached is a copy of the programs from the Lying in State, In Appreciation, and Celebration of Life of Congressman Louis Stokes.

Celebrating
The Life
and Legacy of



Congressman Louis Stokes

1925 – 2015

The Life

The nation mourns the loss of one of its finest public servants after the passing of Congressman Louis Stokes on August 18, 2015, at the age of 90. The Congressman's life embodied the American Dream—rising from poverty in his beloved city of Cleveland, Ohio, to the heights of national political power and influence.

On November 6, 1968, Stokes was elected to the United States House of Representatives, becoming the first African American elected to the Congress from the State of Ohio. He served fifteen consecutive terms, and when he retired in 1998, Congressman Stokes ranked 11th in seniority among the 435 Members of the House of Representatives.

Stokes was born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his brother, the late Ambassador and Cleveland Mayor Carl B. Stokes, were young boys when their father, Charles, died in 1928. Their widowed mother, Louise Stokes, supported her sons by working as a housekeeper. It was Mrs. Stokes who prodded her son to: "Get an education – get something in your head so that you don't have to work with your hands like I do." As a young boy, Stokes was proud of his first job, selling newspapers for the Cleveland News at the age of 12.

Louis was a devoted Christian. He received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at age 16, and his faith was the foundation of his life, providing him with direction and comfort. He was a longtime member of St. Paul AME Zion Church in Cleveland, pastored by Dr. Rev. Audie Simon.

Stokes graduated from Central High School in 1943. After graduation, he joined the United States Army, serving as a personnel specialist. He was honorably discharged in 1946. The military was still segregated at that time and Stokes recounted many stories of racial discrimination during his time in the service. One of the worst experiences he had was being relegated to be served through a window in the back of a restaurant as an African American serviceman. They were forced to eat outside while German prisoners of war were served inside the restaurant.

After serving in the military, Stokes used the GI Bill to attend Western Reserve University. He earned his juris doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall Law School and began practicing law in Cleveland in 1953. His law career spanned 14 years, and included his being one of the founders of the Stokes, Character, Terry, Perry, Whitehead, Young and Davidson law firm. As a practicing lawyer, Congressman Stokes participated in three cases in the United States Supreme Court, including arguing Terry v. Ohio, the landmark "stop and frisk" case.

In November 1967, Carl Stokes made history when he was sworn in as Mayor of the City of Cleveland, becoming the first African American mayor of a major American City. Congressman Stokes' election to the U.S. House of Representatives one year later, in 1968, was equally historic. Joined by Congressman William "Bill" Clay and the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the number of African American members serving in the Congress increased from eight to eleven when the three were elected. As a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, he and other African American members would use the organization to push for civil rights, equality, and economic justice. Stokes was asked to chair the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust which focused on the elimination of health disparities for minorities. He would maintain the chairmanship until his retirement from the Congress.

The Legacy

Congressman Stokes was asked to serve on a number of important committees during his tenure in Congress, including the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee), and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He also served on the House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran (Iran-contra Committee) and the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care. In 1987, during the Iran-contra hearings, Americans across the nation sat riveted in front of their televisions as they watched Congressman Stokes tell Oliver "Ollie" North, the Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, "While I admire your love for America, I just hope you will never forget that others, too, love America just as much as you do and will die for America just as quickly as you will."

A key committee assignment was Congressman Stokes' appointment to the powerful House Appropriations Committee in 1971. He was the first African American Member of Congress appointed to the Committee and would rise to the rank of "Cardinal," a designation for Members who chaired Subcommittees. Stokes chaired the Subcommittee on VA-HUD-Independent Agencies. He would utilize his position on the Appropriations Committee to fight for funding for important health, education, and housing projects; veterans programs; and other initiatives including the TRIO program for educational opportunity. He was keenly focused on the needs of his congressional district, making certain that federal funding was provided to support critical transportation, biomedical research, education and veterans initiatives, to name a few.

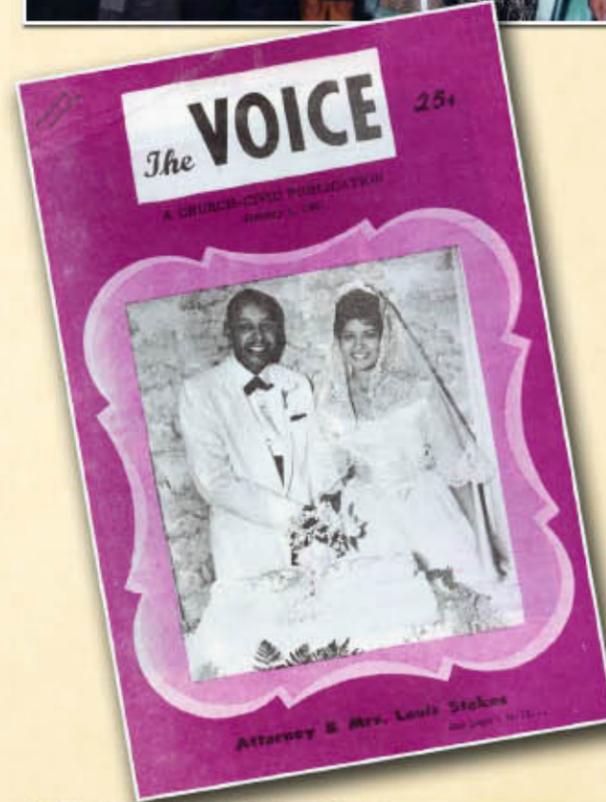
After he retired from the U.S. Congress in 1998, Congressman Stokes joined the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey. He retired from the firm in 2012 as Senior Counsel. Stokes is the recipient of 26 honorary degrees. During his lifetime, he was able to witness the naming of buildings throughout the country in his honor. Examples include: The Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University; a laboratory building on the campus of the National Institutes of Health; the Greater Cleveland Veteran's Hospital; and the Cleveland Public Library's main building expansion. Outhwaite Homes, the housing project where he and his brother Carl once lived, includes a museum that captures the Congressman's early years and rise to prominence. He was particularly proud of a number of scholarships that bore his name: including the Louis Stokes Scholarship at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) STEM scholarship established in his name through the National Institutes of Health.

Congressman Stokes was a Prince Hall Freemason and a member of the Cleveland Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is a recipient of the fraternity's highest honor -The Laurel Wreath Award. He also served on a number of boards, including Forest City and the International Spy Museum. Congressman Stokes was an inspirational figure to youth and young leaders. Using his own story as an example, he challenged them to "Aim High!"

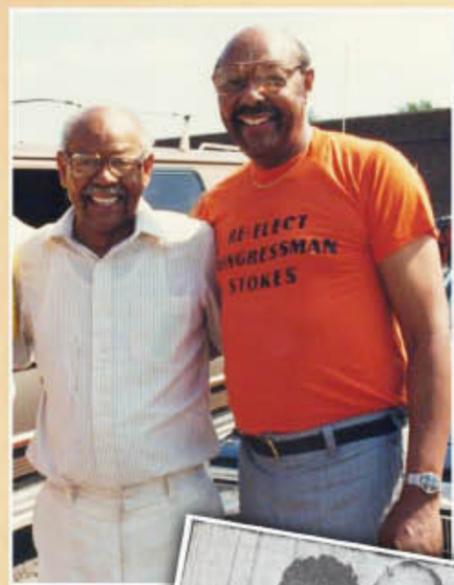
Despite his illustrious career in Washington, "Lou Stokes" remained an integral part of the Cleveland community and was always approachable. There was no mistaking that hardy laugh, and his smile would light up a room. He loved a good joke, a good meal and quiet time with family. His most cherished position was "Granddaddy" to grandchildren Brett, Eric and Grant Hammond; Kelley and Kimberly Stokes; and Alexandra and Nicolette Thompson. They affectionately referred to him as their "Superman!" Left to mourn his passing is his wife of 55 years Jeanette "Jay" Stokes and his four children: Shelley Stokes-Hammond, Angela Stokes, Louis "Chuck" Stokes (Trudy) and Lori Stokes as well as his seven grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. The City of Cleveland, the State of Ohio, the United States and indeed the world is forever blessed because of the 90 years Louis Stokes spent on this earth. He will be dearly missed.

The Early Years

Family



Family



VICE POLEMARCH—Louis Stokes, vice polemarch of the Cleveland Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, stands with the stunning Jay Francis at the Black and White Ball. Jay designed her striking ensemble and Modige Young made the dress. (Gayle photo)

K A Ψ



I See Fraternity by Louis Stokes

Elder Diggs stood quietly before nine young men.
The Eager Faces told him to begin.
But he was grazing far past this campus ground,
and challenging the world as he looked around.

Diggs at the helm nine men at his feet.
A campus his ship, these men his fleet.
No wonder the earth trembled beneath every tree,
as his voice rang out. "I see fraternity!"

No man was ever prouder than he.
For before him sat Armstrong, Asher, Blakemore, Lee.
Men like Grant and Alexander would always remain;
To work besides Edmund, Irvin and Caine.
Now after long days and nights I Plea;
For my poor soul burns for fraternity!
not just here, not just for us:
On every campus Negro youth are left to rust!

We must not tarry our course is set.
Let us here now cast our net.
Not for profit, not for gain!
But for men to achieve, for men to attain!

Upon Indiana soil we lay our foundation.
Kappa Alpha Psi shall be our creation.
Oh God! We're here to embark to sea;
For tonight I see Fraternity!
Upon Indiana soil we lay our foundation.
Kappa Alpha Psi shall be our creation.
Oh God! We're here to embark to see;
For tonight I see fraternity!
And in this your year, nineteen eleven,
Guide us from your seat in heaven.
Let us build brotherhood wherever we go;
Until campus after campus will Kappa men know.

Teaching men to achieve will be our goal.
The world our stage, achievement our role.
And so here we meet, unhappy though free,
As my burning soul cries, I see Fraternity.

Night Before Kappa by Louis Stokes

Well, I'm trying to make Kappa.
And I'm not sure that I can.
But I've set my goal with no regret;
Though the night is cold, and my pillow wet.
I've performed every task—trying to please.
I'm approaching the Delphic Shrine on bended knees.
And as I lay here awake—unable to sleep;
Morning through darkness does slowly creep.

I waited for tomorrow until tonight.
All other things I've approached without fright.
Tomorrow I'm to make Kappa—The time is set.
But this night is cold; and my pillow wet.

Why must I cry as I approach this day?
Tears flow easily as hopes go astray.
Tomorrow I'm to join the world's Finest men.
So tonight I just cry—and tomorrow grin.
Tomorrow when I sit at the banquet table,
Can I be sure that it's real—not just a fable?
Can I measure up to the standards they've set;
When the night is cold and my pillow wet?

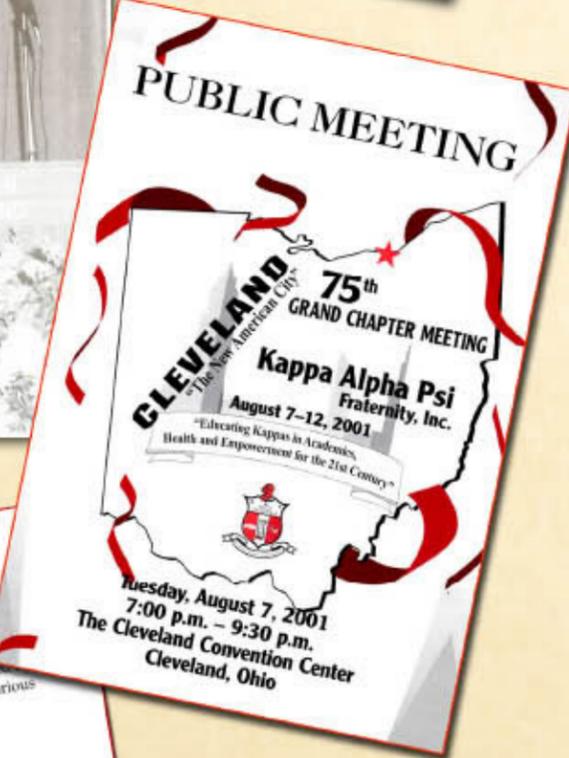
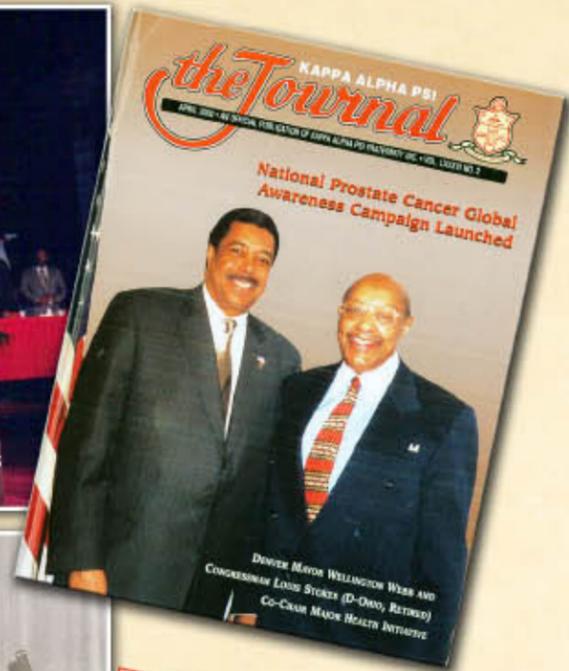
I too must learn to achieve.
Manhood attain; and boyhood leave.
Phi Nu Pi I must pursue for life.
Kappa men achieve through turmoil and strife.
No, I can't sleep; yet I dare to rise.

For where would I go with tears in my eyes?
Oh, sleep! Why not cover me with your restful net;
While the night is cold, and my pillow wet?
Sleep does not answer, so here I lay,
Thinking about Kappa, as I lay here and pray.
Tomorrow the Delphic Shrine, where boyhood dies;
and all Kappa men have tears in their eyes.

K A Ψ

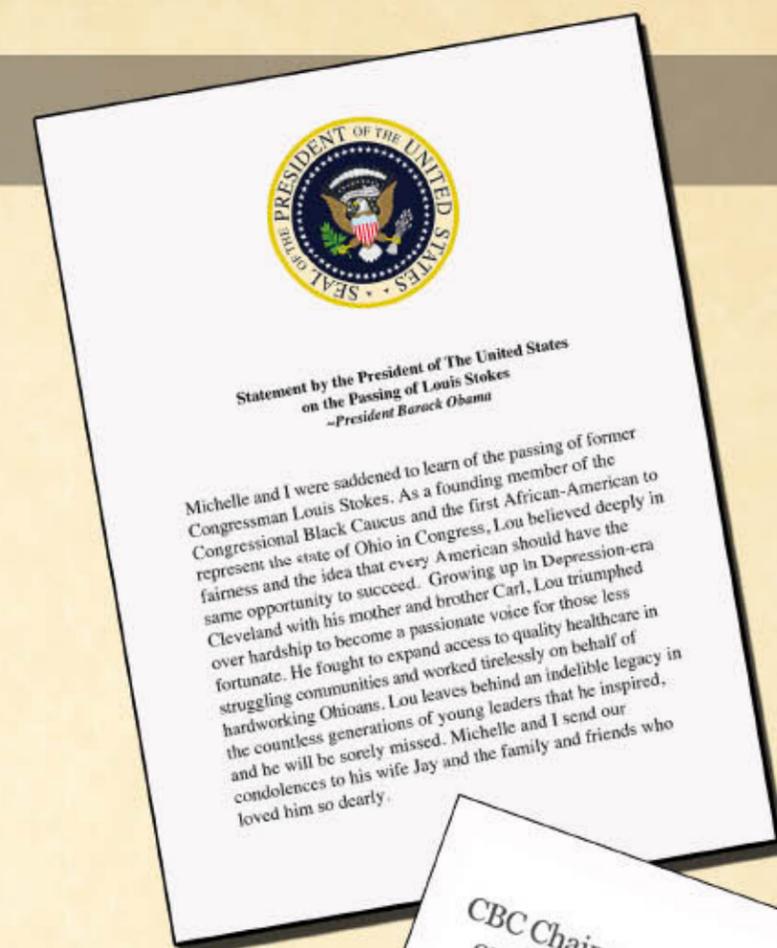


Son, Chuck Stokes accepts Laurel Wreath for his father, Louis Stokes



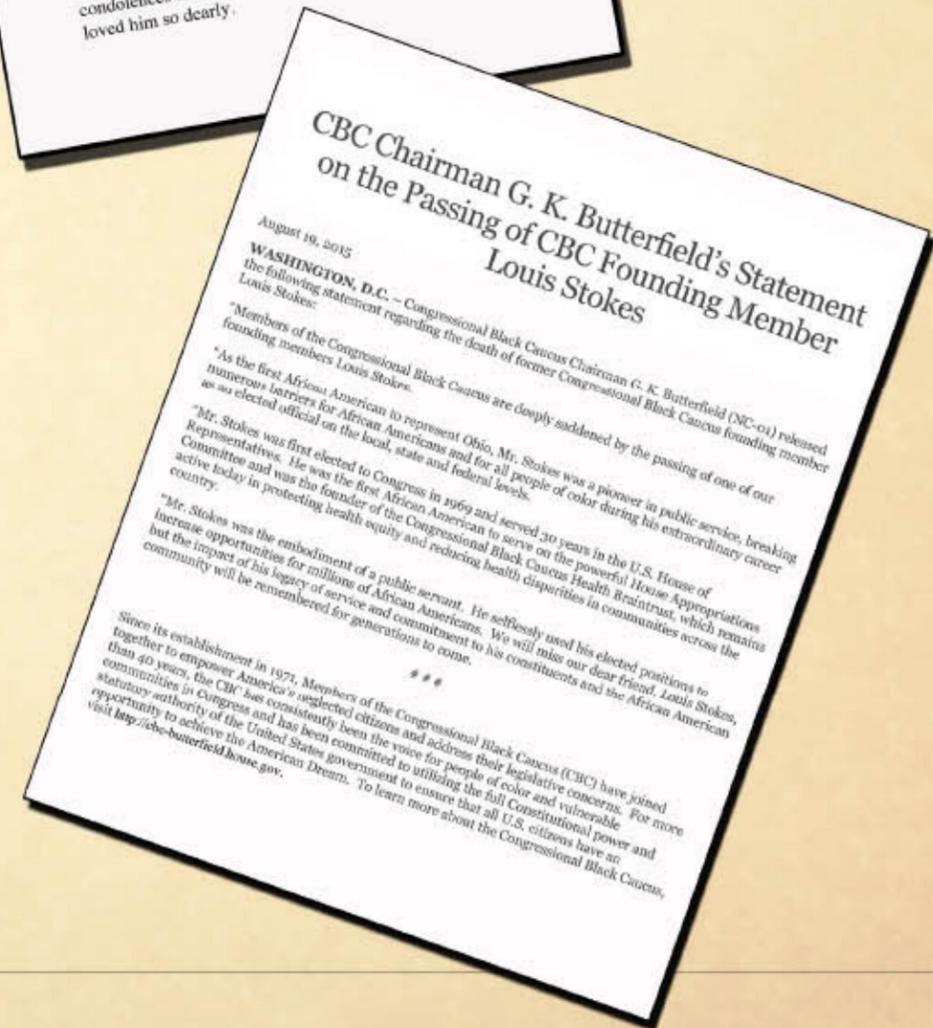
PRIOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS THE LAUREL WREATH AWARD

The Laurel Wreath Award is the Fraternity's highest award for a member's achievement in service to the Fraternity or in human endeavors, national or international in scope. The award consists of a jeweled Fraternity badge framed with laurel leaves in gold and accompanied by a citation of merit. Laurel leaves were used by ancient Greeks to crown the victors in various contests. Members who are Laurel Wreath Laureates are:



Statement by the President of The United States
on the Passing of Louis Stokes
-President Barack Obama

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of former Congressman Louis Stokes. As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African-American to represent the state of Ohio in Congress, Lou believed deeply in fairness and the idea that every American should have the same opportunity to succeed. Growing up in Depression-era Cleveland with his mother and brother Carl, Lou triumphed over hardship to become a passionate voice for those less fortunate. He fought to expand access to quality healthcare in struggling communities and worked tirelessly on behalf of hardworking Ohioans. Lou leaves behind an indelible legacy in the countless generations of young leaders that he inspired, and he will be sorely missed. Michelle and I send our condolences to his wife Jay and the family and friends who loved him so dearly.



CBC Chairman G. K. Butterfield's Statement
on the Passing of CBC Founding Member
Louis Stokes

August 19, 2015
WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressional Black Caucus Chairman G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) released the following statement regarding the death of former Congressional Black Caucus founding member Louis Stokes:

"Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are deeply saddened by the passing of one of our founding members Louis Stokes.

"As the first African American to represent Ohio, Mr. Stokes was a pioneer in public service, breaking numerous barriers for African Americans and for all people of color during his extraordinary career as an elected official on the local, state and federal levels.

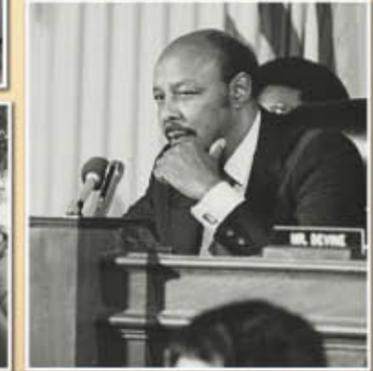
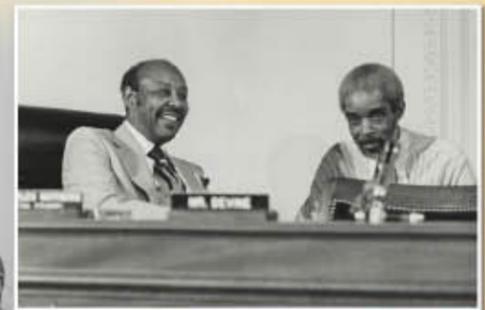
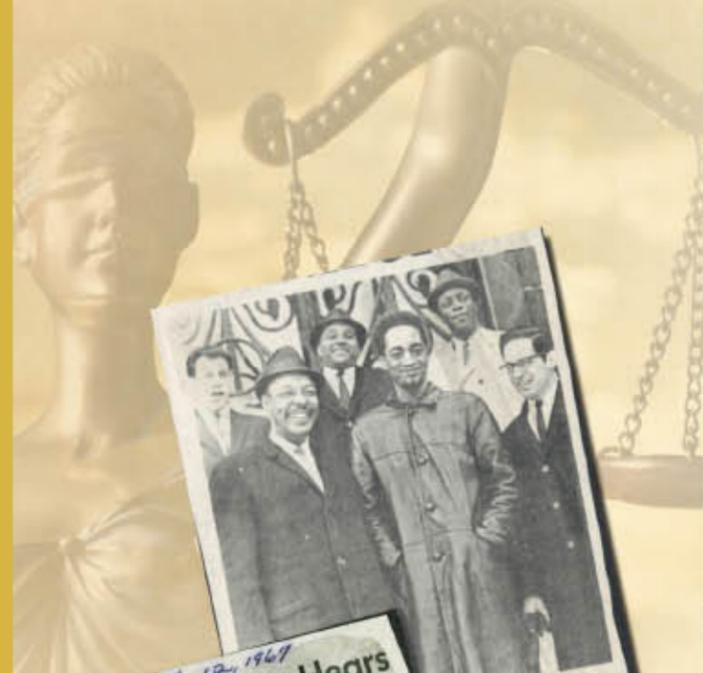
"Mr. Stokes was first elected to Congress in 1969 and served 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the first African American to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and was the founder of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, which remains active today in protecting health equity and reducing health disparities in communities across the country.

"Mr. Stokes was the embodiment of a public servant. He selflessly used his elected positions to increase opportunities for millions of African Americans. We will miss our dear friend, Louis Stokes, but the impact of his legacy of service and commitment to his constituents and the African American community will be remembered for generations to come.

Since its establishment in 1971, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have joined together to empower America's neglected citizens and address their legislative concerns. For more than 40 years, the CBC has consistently been the voice for people of color and vulnerable communities in Congress and has been committed to utilizing the full Constitutional power and statutory authority of the United States government to ensure that all U.S. citizens have an opportunity to achieve the American Dream. To learn more about the Congressional Black Caucus, visit <http://cbc-butterfield.house.gov>.

Law

Politics



Monday, Apr. 12, 1967
Supreme Court Hears City Stop-Frisk Case

By Press Washington Bureau
 WASHINGTON—Cleveland attorney Louis Stokes argued before the U. S. Supreme Court today that upholding the frisking of a man on a downtown street would signal the relaxing of the Fourth Amendment's protection against illegal search and seizure.
 Reuben Payne, assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor, contended that the Cleveland policeman had the right to search the man whom he suspected was planning a robbery and probably was armed.
 The Constitutional issue before the court grew out of the arrest four years ago of John W. Terry Jr. and two other men by Cleveland Detective Martin McPadolen at E. 14th St. and Euclid Ave. In tracking them, he found guns on both Terry and another man.
 After 30-minute arguments by Payne and Stokes, the court heard the case.

NEGROES WITH A FUTURE
 Each week ONYX will salute a Negro who is striving to reach greater heights, their family and community.
 Our choice this week are the **STOKES' BROTHERS**.

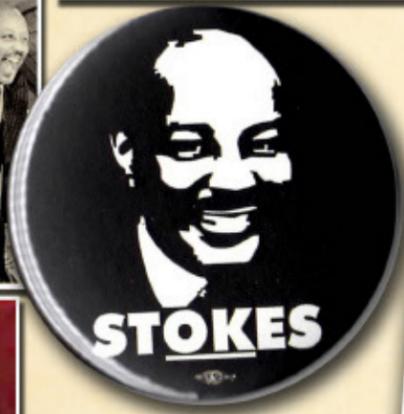
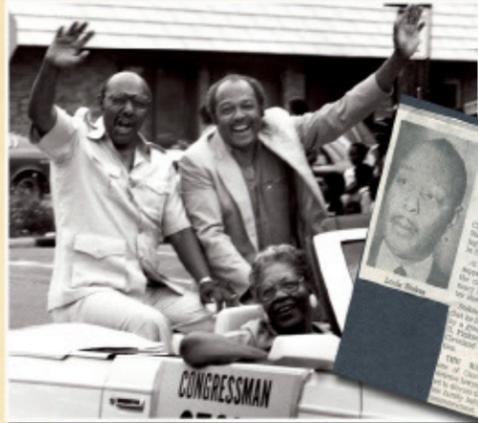


Harrell Jones, center, below, Louis Stokes and Harold Weinstein decide in the criminal case against Jones and four attorneys, Elmer Giffney, Oliver are shown as attorneys (Staff photo by Bob Williams)

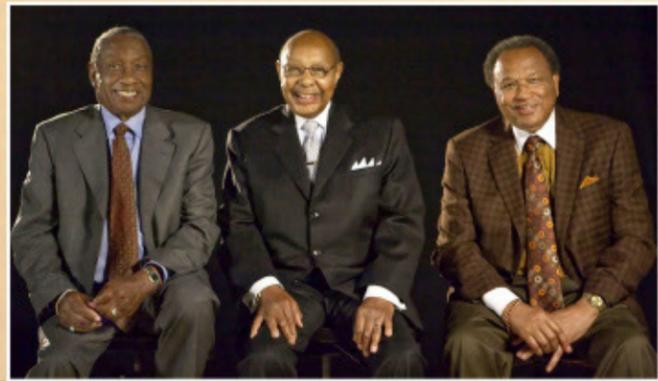
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Politics



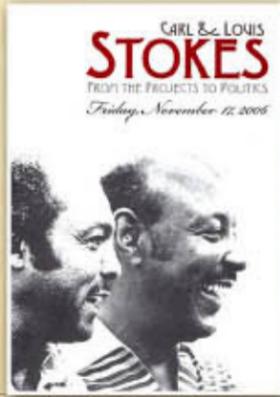
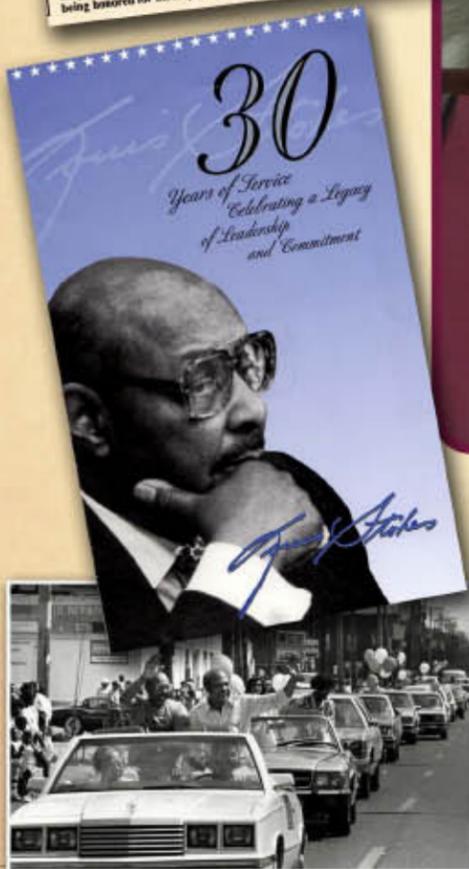
By tracing the moves of Lee Harvey Oswald (insert) at the Dallas Book Depository, the chairman of the Assassinations Committee takes the leadership role in the historic investigation on the loss of President John F. Kennedy.



Politics



Politics



Memories



A Message of Love

I am There

By: James Dillet Freeman

Do you need Me?
I am there.

You cannot see Me, yet I am the light you see by.
You cannot hear Me, yet I speak through your voice.
You cannot feel Me, yet I am the power at work in your hands.
I am at work, though you do not understand My ways.
I am at work, though you do not recognize My works.
I am not strange visions. I am not mysteries.
Only in absolute stillness, beyond self, can you know
Me as I am, and then but as a feeling and a faith.

Yet I am there. Yet I hear. Yet I answer.

When you need Me, I am there.
Even if you deny Me, I am there.
Even when you feel most alone, I am there.
Even in your fears, I am there.
Even in your pain, I am there.

I am there when you pray and when you do not pray.
I am in you, and you are in Me.

Only in your mind can you feel separate from Me.
For only in your mind are the mists of "yours" and "mine."
Yet only with your mind can you know Me and experience Me.

Empty your heart of empty fears.
When you get yourself out of the way, I am there.
You can of yourself do nothing, but I can do all.
And I am in all.

Though you may not see the good, good is there, for I am there.
I am there because I have to be, because I am.

Only in Me does the world have meaning; only out of
Me does the world take form; only because of Me does the world go forward.
I am the law on which the movement of the stars and the growth of living cells are founded.
I am the love that is the law's fulfilling. I am assurance. I am peace. I am oneness.
I am the law that you can live by. I am the love that you can cling to. I am your assurance.

I am your peace. I am one with you. I am.
Though you fail to find Me, I do not fail you.
Though your faith in Me is unsure, My faith in you never wavers,
because I know you, because I love you.
Beloved, I am there.

Honorary Pallbearers

Board of Deacons – St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church

Board of Stewards – St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church

Retired Congressman William F. Clay

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.

Delos M. Cosgrove, MD

Mr. Marvin R. Cross

Retired Congressman Ronald V. Dellums

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge

Jay Gershen, DDS, PHD

R. Thomas Stanton, Esq.

Ms. Carole F. Hoover

Ms. Patricia Hoover

Edgar B. Jackson, Jr., MD

The Honorable Frank G. Jackson

Retired Congressman Kweisi Mfume

Mr. Samuel H. Miller

Frederick R. Nance, Esq.

Mrs. Betty T. Pinkney

The Honorable Charles E. Rangel

Pallbearers

Louis "Chuck" Stokes

Edward "Chip" Dixon

Cordell E. Stokes

Blake Dixon

Brett S. Hammond

Brian Thompson

Eric S. Hammond

Bishop Eugene W. Ward, Jr.

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2165 E. 89th Street | Cleveland, Ohio

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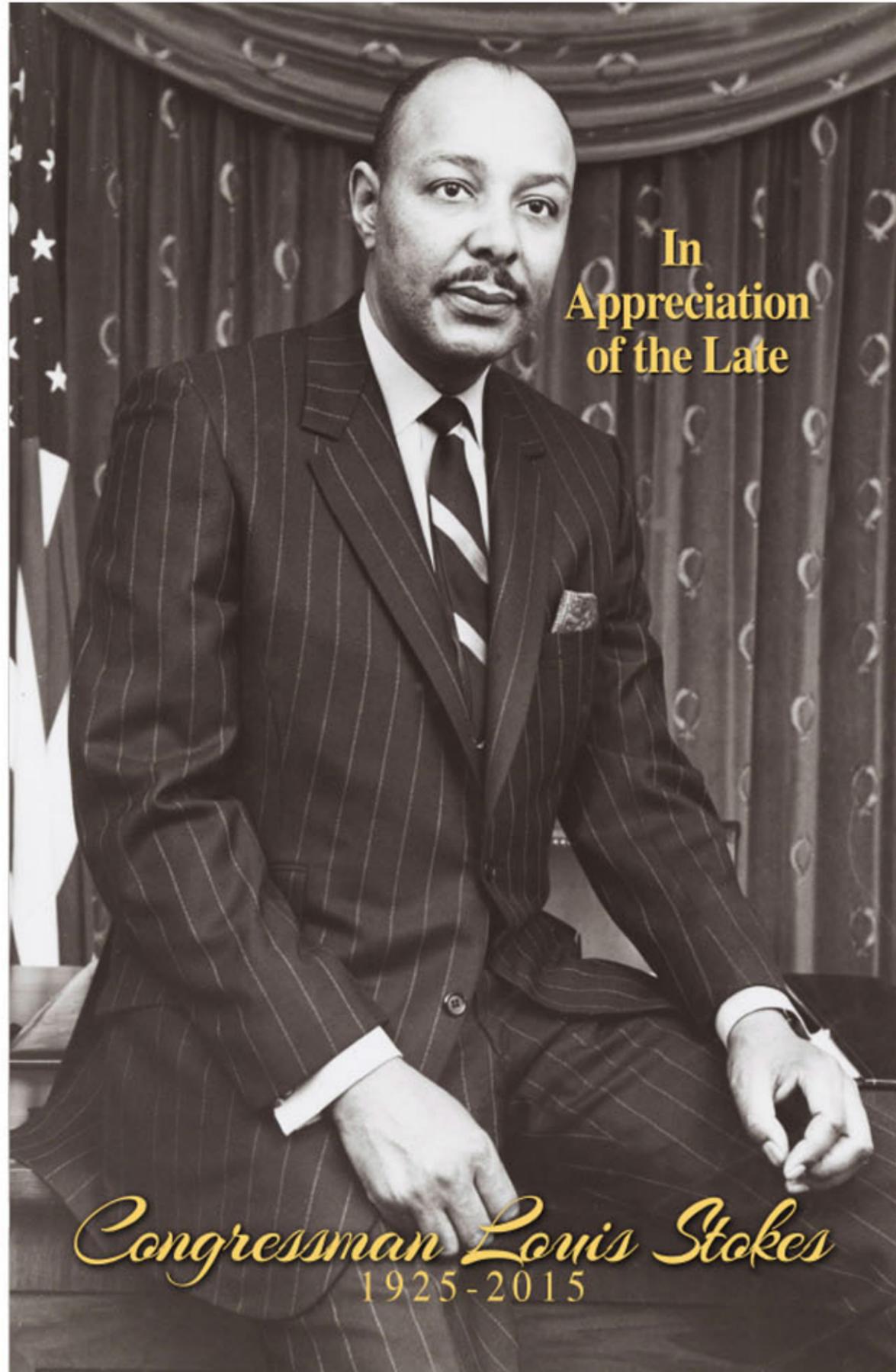
The family of the late, Congressman Louis Stokes, wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers, well wishes and many other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. A more personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date. Special thank you to Western Reserve Historical Society and Cleveland.com for photo references. Front Cover portrait painted by Rob Hartshorn.

In Lieu of flowers, and for those wishing to give, contributions can be made to:
The Louis Stokes Scholarship Fund at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
2121 Euclid Avenue, LB 138
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

~George Bernard Shaw

Quis Stokes



In
Appreciation
of the Late

Congressman Louis Stokes
1925-2015

**Statement by the President of The United States
on the Passing of Louis Stokes**

~President Barack Obama

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of former Congressman Louis Stokes. As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African-American to represent the state of Ohio in Congress, Lou believed deeply in fairness and the idea that every American should have the same opportunity to succeed. Growing up in Depression-era Cleveland with his mother and brother Carl, Lou triumphed over hardship to become a passionate voice for those less fortunate. He fought to expand access to quality healthcare in struggling communities and worked tirelessly on behalf of hardworking Ohioans. Lou leaves behind an indelible legacy in the countless generations of young leaders that he inspired, and he will be sorely missed. Michelle and I send our condolences to his wife Jay and the family and friends who loved him so dearly.



"...I have had a great and wonderful and historic career here. This is why on so many occasions I have pinched myself to ask that this man, brought up in the housing projects of Cleveland, my mother scrubbing floors, winds up standing in the well of the United States Congress...The story I have recited to you today of the Stokes brothers could only happen in America. Only in America."

**Stokes' remarks on House Floor following
Congressional tribute
July 23, 1998**

**Cleveland City Hall
Rotunda**

601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Monday, August 24, 2015
5:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Kappa Alpha Psi Tribute

**In Appreciation of the
Honorable Louis Stokes**

Eleanor Hayes
Presiding Director of Communications
Division of Human Resources
Cleveland Clinic

Remarks
The Honorable Frank G. Jackson
Mayor, City of Cleveland

The Honorable William Lacy “Bill” Clay, Sr.
United States House of Representatives (Retired)

David J. LaRue
President and Chief Executive Officer
Forest City Enterprises, Inc.

Frederick R. Nance, Esq.
Regional Managing Partner
Squire Patton Boggs



(Remarks Continued)

The Honorable Mary Rose Oakar
United States House of Representatives (Retired)

Reflections
Alexandra Thompson
Kimberly Stokes
Brett Hammond
On behalf of the Stokes grandchildren

Musical Tribute
Kelley Stokes and Alexandra Thompson

Closing Remarks
Samuel H. Miller
Co-Chairman Emeritus, Forest City Enterprises Inc.

Benediction
The Reverend Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness
Pastor, Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church

Recessional
Honor Guard
City of Cleveland



Congressman Louis Stokes Career Highlights

1925. Born on February 23rd in Cleveland to the late Charles and Louise Stokes, the oldest of two sons by the couple.

1936. During the Great Depression, Stokes got his first job selling newspapers. Later, he shines shoes and works in an Army-Navy Surplus store.

1943-46. Served as personnel specialist in the United States Army.

1946-48. Attended Western Reserve University on the GI Bill.

1953. Graduated from Cleveland-Marshall Law School and began practicing as a defense attorney in Cleveland.

1967. Stokes's younger brother, the late Carl B. Stokes, is elected Mayor of Cleveland, becoming the first African American mayor of a major American city.

1967. Stokes argued *Terry v. Ohio* in the United States Supreme Court, a landmark case in which court ruled that police may stop and frisk a suspect without consent if they believe the suspect is engaged in criminal activity and may be armed and dangerous.

1968. Stokes is elected to the United States House of Representatives, becoming the first African American elected to the Congress from Ohio.

1971-72. Assumed several powerful positions in the Congress, including his appointment to the House Appropriations Committee and was elected by his colleagues to chair the newly formed Congressional Black Caucus.

1976. Appointed and later named chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, charged with investigating the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1980-87. Appointed to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee) and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Stokes would go on to chair these panels and guide their work through a number of important investigations, including the Iran Contra investigation and ABSCAM.

1993. Became Dean of the Ohio congressional delegation as he enters his 13th term in office. Named chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on VA-HUD-Independent Agencies. He is now a member of the "College of Cardinals," an elite group of subcommittee chairmen who exert enormous influence on federal spending.

1998. Announced his retirement from the United States Congress, having served 15 consecutive terms of service. He ranked 11th in seniority out of 435 members serving in the U.S. House of Representatives when he retired.

2000. Stokes joined the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, where he served as Senior Counsel. He retired from the firm in 2012.

2003. Stokes received the Congressional Distinguished Service Award, becoming the first African American to earn this honor.

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