

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 060235)

RESOLUTION

Honoring the memory of the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, Esquire.

WHEREAS, The Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, Esquire, born in Saugerties, New York, was one of Pennsylvania's most courageous and intelligent civil rights leaders of all time; and

WHEREAS, Irvis, a graduate of Pittsburgh University School of Law, was a noted prosecutor, poet, teacher and later elevated as trustee emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh ; and

WHEREAS, Irvis led groundbreaking demonstrations against discriminatory hiring and sales practices by downtown Pittsburgh department stores in 1947, and gained national attention when he sued an all white-males-only Moose lodge in the Harrisburg area for refusing to serve him a meal; and

WHEREAS, Irvis campaigned to improve conditions for blacks in politics, education, and business. He transcended geographic and political boundaries, thus drawing support and admiration from all of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Irvis was a Democrat representative for Allegheny County in the Pennsylvania House from 1959 to 1988, he became the first African American speaker of the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania and was elected to the dynamic position of speaker four times; and

WHEREAS, Irvis was the primary force behind legislation that made Pittsburgh University, The Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, and Lincoln University become recognized as state-related institutions; and

WHEREAS, Irvis created "Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency," which provides millions of students and their families with the ability to realize their dream of a college education; and

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WHEREAS, The office building in the Capitol Complex that houses legislative offices, Commonwealth Court, a reading room, and a University of Pittsburgh library are all named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Friday, March 17, 2006 we mourned the passing of the nation's first African American speaker of a State House since Reconstruction; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor the memory of the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, Esquire.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-third of March, 2006.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Goode and Nutter

Sponsored by: Council President Verna, Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Goode, Nutter, Blackwell, Tasco, Krajewski, Rizzo, DiCicco, Kenney, Clarke, O'Neill, Kelly, Ramos and Miller