

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	230638	Version:	0	Name:	
Type:	Resolution	Status:		ADOPTED	
File created:	9/21/2023	In control:		CITY COUNCIL	
On agenda:		Final action:		9/28/2023	
Title:	Also naming the 7800 block of Saturn place "Leonard K. Brundage Way", to honor the life and legacy of Eastwick native and lifelong Philadelphian, Leonard K. Brundage.				
Sponsors:	Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Squilla, Councilmember Driscoll, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Vaughn, Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Bass				
Indexes:					
Code sections:					
Attachments:	1. Resolution No. 23063800, 2. Signature23063800				

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9/28/2023	0	CITY COUNCIL			
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Also naming the 7800 block of Saturn place "Leonard K. Brundage Way", to honor the life and legacy of Eastwick native and lifelong Philadelphian, Leonard K. Brundage.

WHEREAS, Brundage was born on May 19, 1944 in the Eastwick section of Philadelphia, until his family was forced through eminent domain to relocate from the neighborhood in 1958 due to concerns related to flooding; and

WHEREAS, Brundage was educated in the Philadelphia school system. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving his country for 2 years; and

WHEREAS, When he returned home, he became a union ironworker with Local 401. As a member of Local 401, he worked on many transformative projects in Philadelphia including some of the tallest buildings that make up the city's current skyline; and

WHEREAS, Brundage experienced a harsh racial climate in this work environment. He and his 2 colleagues won a lawsuit against the company that would secure important protections for black ironworkers and help increase diversity in the building trades; and

WHEREAS, During his free time, Brundage enjoyed photography and jazz music. He attended Settlement School to study classical piano under Sumi Tanaka. Mr. Brundage brought together his passion for jazz and love for Philadelphia when he co-wrote a song entitled "Philadelphia is a Beautiful Place"; and

WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, Mr. Brundage developed a love of nature and became an avid gardener, chess player, and deep-sea fisherman. Mr. Brundage also dedicated his energy to improving quality of life in his beloved Eastwick neighborhood. Not long after he moved to Saturn Place, he became the 7800 block's first block captain, a labor of love that he would continue for the remainder of his life; and

WHEREAS, In August 1999, Hurricane Floyd devastated Brundage's neighborhood with storm surges and overwhelming floods. He fought at every level of government to get assistance for his community. He contacted renowned environmental activist Lois Gibbs, numerous key leaders within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

Congressman Bob Brady, and City Councilmember Anna Verna. A congressional hearing was held on behalf of Brundage's community. He and fellow activists went to Harrisburg several times to advocate with state leaders and held protests on Lindbergh Boulevard to bring attention to the neighborhood's. In response to these concerns, the EPA would introduce enhanced techniques to control future flooding and removed and replaced contaminated soil that exacerbated damage caused by the flood. And Mr. Brundage's work to promote environmental justice and quality of life in Eastwick continues today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leonard K. Brundage was known throughout his community for his selflessness in service to his neighbors. His legacy will forever live on in the Philadelphia skyline and in his beloved Eastwick neighborhood, which he fought tirelessly to protect; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Also names the 7800 block of Saturn Place "Leonard K. Brundage Way", to honor the life and legacy of Eastwick native and lifelong Philadelphian, Leonard K. Brundage.