



Harold G. Moss

October 1, 1929 - September 21, 2020

"When you accept and acknowledge that you are part of the family of America, you are obligated to make it the best you can for everyone in the family."

Harold Gene Moss, 90, blazed another trail on September 21, 2020. Born in Gilmer, Texas, on October 1, 1929, he passed peacefully at his home surrounded by loved ones. Harold was predeceased by his parents, John Harris Moss and Ida Belle Wright and daughter, Cathy Cobb Moss. He leaves to mourn his passing the following: Genie Jefferson (wife); sons Dean Moss (NY) and Michael Moss (CA); twin sisters Dorothy Toliver and Martha Brown (WA); daughters Tiffany Jones and Mayor Victoria Woodards (WA); nieces Marva Goldsmith (DC), Marcia Jackson (MI) and Gail Toliver (NC); great nephew, Charles Jackson III (TX); and children of love, and not by birth: Solomon Uwadiale, Keith Blocker, Dorian Waller, Frank Boykin Jr., Carlos Watson, Rahn Clayton, Rev. Malando Redeemer, Cornelius Winesberry, Larry Norman and Supreme Court Judge Helen Whitener.

Harold was a 70+ year resident of the City of Tacoma. He served the City of Tacoma as a Councilmember for more than 13 years and as its Mayor for two years. Harold first ran for the Tacoma City Council in 1969. He lost that race, but was later appointed to the Tacoma City Council to fill a vacancy. In 1971, he ran for election to retain his seat and won. He became the first person of color elected to the Tacoma City Council, and was subsequently elected to serve two additional terms.

Harold was elected to the Pierce County Council in 1996 from District Four, and served two four-year terms. He was elected Chair of the Council for an unprecedented three consecutive years. He was Committee Chair of the Public Works, Operations & Budget, Lodging Tax Advisory and Rules and Operations Committees. He also represented the Pierce County Council on the Washington State Legislative Steering Committee. He served as Secretary-Treasurer, First Vice President, and was elected President of the Washington State Association of Counties in 2003. He represented the 39 counties of Washington State. Harold was an accomplished Dental Technician, Ceramist and

Licensed Denturist. He owned and operated Northwest Porcelain Studios, a commercial dental laboratory, and was the President of the Wright Park and Westgate Dental Clinics, Inc. He was a past president of the Washington State Denturist Association.

Harold served eight years as the Manager of the External Civil Rights Branch of the Washington State Department of Transportation, assuring contractor compliance with state and federal law on the utilization of minority and women owned construction firms and the participation of minority persons and women in construction jobs.

He was the Deputy Executive Director of the Tacoma Urban League (TUL) for Labor Affairs for many years. The Labor Education Advancement Program he created received national recognition. Among his accomplishments at TUL was the planning, grant writing and construction supervision of the \$600,000 TUL Urban Service Center building. When it was completed and dedicated in 1976, it made history as the first Urban League building constructed from the ground up in the nation.

Harold was a past President of the Tacoma Branch of the NAACP. During his term in office, he initiated the first case of racial discrimination successfully prosecuted in Washington State for violation of the State's Public Accommodations provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Under his leadership the NAACP Branch also initiated two Open Housing Ordinances, which made discrimination in the sale or purchase of a residence to people of color a punishable offense in Tacoma. The Tacoma City Council passed both, but the first was defeated at the polls. Harold served as an NAACP Board Member for more than ten years.

Harold's involvement in civic and social activities past and present include: membership in the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge—Honorary Past Worshipful Master; the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts (now known as Tacoma Arts Live); Life Member of the NAACP; Advisory Committee, University of Washington, Tacoma Campus; Executive Board Member of the Tacoma Urban League Board of Directors; and a Lifetime Member of the Tacoma Urban League Guild. More than a trailblazer, Moss was a mentor and a man of remarkable moral stature who genuinely earned the respect and admiration of many. In a 2019 interview, Moss reflected on his past and his desire for basic equality for everyone saying, "it ain't all that easy always, but it's doable. It can be done. You can make a contribution."

Harold retired from business and employment in December 2004 and began blazing a new trail in 2020, but undeniably continued his service to the community.

To celebrate with us, please email for details at mayorharoldmoss@gmail.com

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to The Tacoma Urban League for the permanent signage for the Harold G. Moss bridge, NAACP Youth Council, Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award, Tacoma Arts Live and/or Tacoma Historical Society.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 10:00AM - 04:00PM

30

Mountain View Valley Chapel

4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US

Comments



“ Willie Jeffery lit a candle in memory of Harold G. Moss



Willie Jeffery - October 16, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ Thank you for your service to family and community. We will miss your bright smile dear cousin.

Willie Jeffery - October 16, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ Veritta Wells lit a candle in memory of Harold G. Moss



Veritta Wells - October 07, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ I met and have known Harold Moss
When he use to attend my late uncles church Late Rev. E.S
Brazil shiloh Baptist. Such a warm smile.last saw you at my church Greater heights
with pastor John Penton. I so grateful to call you friend. Happy to have text to wife
Genie the photos of you. Prayers of comfort for you all. Tacoma is a better place
because of your service care love for all people..Amen



Debra thomas - October 02, 2020 at 11:01 PM



“ What a beautiful legacy you have left for the family. Such a sweet gentle spirit now
resting in God's arms. We love you Uncle Harold and we will miss that sweet smile
and warm welcome!

Tonya Davis - October 01, 2020 at 12:45 PM



“ Harold was a man who loved FAMILY, one and all, and we loved him back. We will
forever remember him for always greeting us with open arms, a big smile, happy
laughter, and a warm hug. He was a one of a kind man and will truly be missed. May
you Rest In Peace, Cousin.

Careth and Isaac Fontaine - September 30, 2020 at 11:08 PM



“ Elenor Williams & Eric And Faith Ford sent a virtual gift in memory of Harold G. Moss



Elenor Williams & Eric and Faith Ford - September 30, 2020 at 07:27 PM



“ We Thank God for the Leadership he Blessed you with in this life. Such a sweet spirit and a gentle Giant!!! We will forever keep you in our hearts ,we will also keep the rest of the family in our prayers. Love the Odom Family

Pamela Odom - September 30, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ We are so Blessed, as family members, to have had such a great leader among us. Harold left a legacy for us all to cherish, respect and love. Will miss him very very much!
Lovingly, Mary & Clifford

Mary E Morris - September 30, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Harold G. Moss.



September 30, 2020 at 12:32 AM



“ What an accomplished life, a life well lived from one family member to another. Carol Wells

Carol Wells - September 29, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ It was my honor to cover news stories about one of the strongest leaders in Tacoma. He was among the black leaders who welcomed me to the community as one of the first fulltime reporters who was of African-American background for The Tacoma News Tribune. My heart goes out to the family and my prayer is for peace in their spirit as they recall a wonderful life who made a difference in his world.

Betty Anderson - September 25, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ Dear Harold,
This is a letter to thank you for all of your support, advice, and the real kindness you gave me, without judgment. You gave purely of yourself to help others be successful. You always made me laugh and enjoy the good in people regardless. I'm proud and honored to have stood on the shoulder of a real community giant. I learned so much and hope to give back what I have learned. You will be missed.
Sincerely and respectfully,
Wanda Thompson
Rest in Eternal Peace

Wanda A. Thompson - September 22, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ To our dear friend Harold, Thank You.
Tom and Leslie

Leslie White - September 23, 2020 at 01:00 AM



“ Everyone just assumes there was always a Pantages Theatre, a % for art ordinance, an arts commission. Not so. These were real battles and Harold was always one of the great supporters, the yes member vote on both City And County council. I feel honored to have worked with Harold in bringing the importance of governmental funding for the arts to fruition,

Ellida Kirk Lathrop - September 26, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ Harold and his family have been life-long friends of ours. We have enjoyed is sense of humor, his honesty and integrity. when we were younger, we visited regularly and maintained a loving, caring relationship. In later years, we shared wonderful memories. He was never at a loss for words. we will miss him and his wonderful smile. we pray for love, comfort, and peace for the family at this most difficult time. Blessings, Charles & Georgia James

Charles & Georgia James - September 30, 2020 at 06:42 PM