



**National
Urban League**

IN MEMORIAM OF MR. JOHN WESLEY MACK

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of our beloved John W. Mack, long time Urban Leaguer and civil rights leader, on Thursday, June 21, 2018.

John began his career with the Urban League in Flint, Michigan in 1964 and was appointed executive director in 1965. Prior to heading the Los Angeles Urban League, he served on the Urban League's National staff for six months during the Whitney Young era in Washington, D.C. He served as president of the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) from August of 1969 until his retirement in 2004. During his tenure, the LAUL became one of the most successful non-profit community organizations in Los Angeles, with an annual budget of \$25 million. At the time of his transitioning, he was serving as Vice Chair of the National Urban League, and Chair of the Affiliate Services Committee.

When John retired, the organization was serving over 100,000 individuals each year, and operated a number of innovative, result-oriented job training, job placement, education, academic tutorial, youth achievement and business development programs serving African-Americans and other people of color utilizing state of the art computer technology preparing League constituents for the 21st Century. In 1997, under his leadership, United Way presented its Agency of the Year Award to the Los Angeles Urban League. John was the recipient of the first National Urban League Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award for Leadership in Race Relations and he also received the National Urban League's "Legend of the Century" Award in 2000.

As a leader in the 1960 student Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta, he was a co-founder and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights. John earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Sociology from North Carolina A&T State University, and his Master's in Social Work Degree from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), where Whitney M. Young, Jr. served as the Dean of Social Work. In 2006, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Management Degree from the Claremont Graduate University School of Education.

In Los Angeles, and indeed Southern California, the name John W. Mack was synonymous with civil rights and the Urban League. He was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners by Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa in August of 2005, where he served for two consecutive years before being elected to the Vice President position in 2007. He was re-elected to the Vice President position in 2008.

John was a highly respected advocate for equal opportunities in education, law enforcement, and economic empowerment for African-Americans and other

minorities—and a bridge builder across all racial, cultural, economic, gender and religious lines. He was afforded the unique opportunity to serve as a Teaching Fellow in Residence at the prestigious Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government's Institute of Politics from September through December, 1998. He led a study group of Harvard University undergraduate students entitled "The Future of Urban America: Finding Solutions Through Strategic Partnership and Policy Advocacy."

In 2005, the Los Angeles Board of Education named in his honor the "John W. Mack Elementary School" in recognition of his retirement and leadership in advancing a level playing field and a quality education for African Americans and other youth of color.

John's career was truly exemplified by organizations and board memberships with which he was affiliated, receiving numerous honors and awards.

He is survived by his children: Anthony, Deborah, and Andria; and his grandchildren: Anthony, Gabriel, and Gianna.

Those persons who would like to address a card or letter of condolence to the family may do so as follows:

The Family of John W. Mack
1838 Victoria Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019