

Proclamation

OFFICE OF MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON

City of Cleveland, Ohio

In Loving Memory of

The Honorable George V. Voinovich

A Life and Legacy of Service

Whereas it is with deepest sympathy that I join with the citizens of the City of Cleveland and our great nation in mourning the loss of The Honorable George V. Voinovich, a dedicated public servant and a remarkable man. There really are no words to ease the pain of such a devastating loss. I hope the family, friends and community find comfort in their memories of Mr. Voinovich and that these memories give them the courage to face the difficult days ahead; and,

Whereas when we remember Mr. Voinovich and all that he meant to us, our city and our nation, let us also remember to be thankful for the fragile gift of life. Let us seek peace from the knowledge that he lives on in his family's love for him for love knows no bounds. May these loving thoughts bring you peace and understanding as you seek comfort and strength from those who mourn with you and support you in your grief; and,

Whereas born on February 23, 1936 in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood, Mr. Voinovich proudly celebrated his Serbian and Slovenian heritage. A deeply spiritual man and devout Catholic, his beloved wife, Janet and his loving children and grandchildren were the light of his life. His genuine spirit, kind heart and desire to make the world a better place, created a legacy here in Cleveland, one that will never be forgotten; and,

Whereas in 1979, he and his wife, Janet, lost their daughter Molly, in a tragic accident. He credited this life changing event with a great shift in his life's trajectory. The Voinoviches started the Molly Voinovich Memorial Fund and held an annual event at her former school to honor her life by giving back to the community. Mr. Voinovich was a consummate professional and a true leader; and,

Whereas for more than 46 years, Mr. Voinovich served the public in many roles including as the Mayor of the City of Cleveland, Governor of the State of Ohio and State of Ohio Senator, just to name a few. Through his service, he focused on fiscal responsibility as well social well-being. His efforts were bi-partisan and he served with an unmatched passion and compassion for his constituents. The contributions he made to the Cleveland community and the State of Ohio are immeasurable; and,

Whereas Mr. Voinovich's mark on Cleveland can be seen in the landmarks named in his honor, Voinovich Park, The George V. Voinovich Bridge as well as the numerous prestigious awards presented to him over the course of his lifetime. His accomplishments are many and his devotion and dedication to the people of Cleveland, the State of Ohio and the United States of America is undeniable; and,

Whereas Mr. Voinovich was preceded in death by his adored daughter, Molly; cherished parents, George S. and Josephine (nee Bernot); and, dearest brother, Paul (Christine Schepis). He leaves behind to celebrate his life, his beloved wife of 54 years, Janet (nee Allan); loving children, George F. (Dina), Betsy (Paul Kompier), and Peter (Sasha Thackaberry); precious grandchildren, Mary Faith, Veronica, John, Jane, Emily, Carys, Julia, Molly and Spencer; dearest siblings, Michael (Elaine), Victor (Patricia), Joanne Indre (Robert), and Mary Ann Schmitz; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, other caring relatives, treasured friends and a grateful community. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Voinovich undeniably improved the lives of those in Cleveland and the State of Ohio.

Now therefore, I, Frank G. Jackson, the 56th Mayor of the City of Cleveland, do hereby offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of The Honorable George V. Voinovich. I humbly request that all citizens join with me in extending our prayers and deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Voinovich during this time of bereavement.

In witness thereof, I have set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the City of Cleveland to be affixed on this 16th day of June in the year 2016.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson