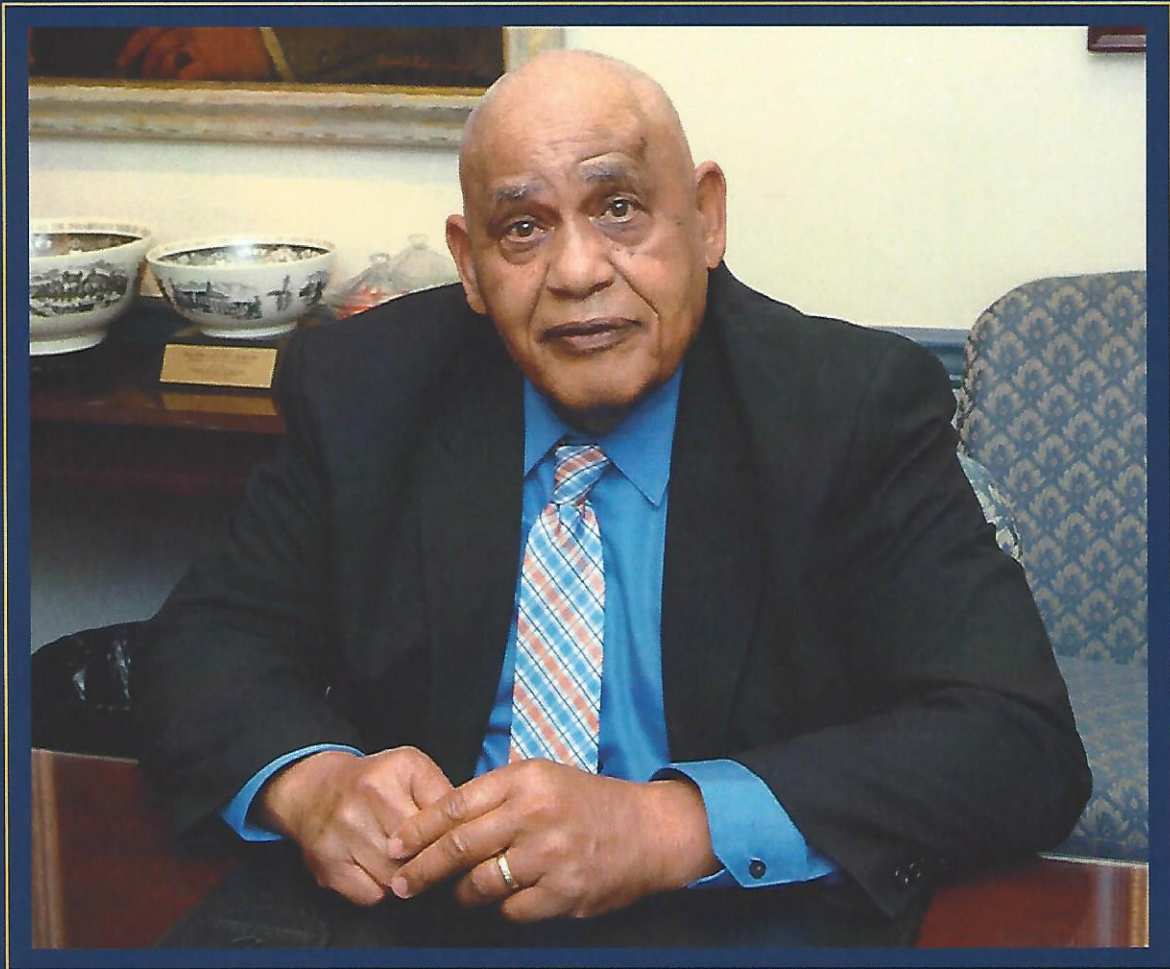


**CELEBRATING THE LIFE
& LEGACY OF**

Senator T. Milton Street Sr.

April 25, 1939 - November 28, 2022



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2022

Viewing 9:00 am | Service 10:50 am

Nix & Nix Funeral Home

1621 Dauphin Street, Philadelphia PA 19132

Zacchaeus R. Keene, F.D., Supervisor

215-229-3932

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating Minister, Pastor "Nick" Taliaferro | Coordinator: Lisa Austin Tynes

- 9:00 am **Viewing**
- 10:50 am **Clergy and Family Procession**
- 11:00 am **Invocation**
"Nick" Taliaferro, Pastor & Talk Show Host (family friend)
- 11:05 am **Congregational Hymn - Amazing Grace**
- 11:10 am **Welcome & Prayer of Comfort**
Pastor Michael Dyson, Ebenezer SDA Church
- 11:15 am **Music - Kathy Sledge "Something About That Name"**
- 11:20 am **Acknowledgments**
Elesita Hampton Williams (family friend)
- 11:25 am **Scriptures Old Testament & New Testament**
Zyan Street-Berry (great-grandson) & Chandler Toppin (granddaughter)
* Former Councilwoman Janie Blackwell
* Council President Darrell Clarke
* Former Congressman Bob Brady
- 11:40 am **Reflections Video Collage**
- 11:50 am **Reflection of an Activist**
Asia Coney, President PHA Advisory Board
- 11:55 am **Senator Sharif Street, Esq. (nephew)**
- 12:00 pm **Music - Great Is Thy Faithfulness (selected)**
- 12:05 pm **Reflection of Family**
* Alexis Street (granddaughter)
* Renee Street Toppin (daughter)
* Mayor John F. Street, Esq. (brother)
- 12:20 pm **Music - Carol Riddick "His Eye Is On The Sparrow"**
- 12:25 pm **Eulogy - S.L. Fordham, JD, MAPM, MPA (nephew)**
- 12:45 pm **Music - "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"**
- 12:50 pm **Family Appreciation - T. Milton Street Jr. (son)**
Benediction *Pastor Carlos McConico, of Zion SDA Church (former pastor of Ebenezer)*
Instructions of Funeral Home

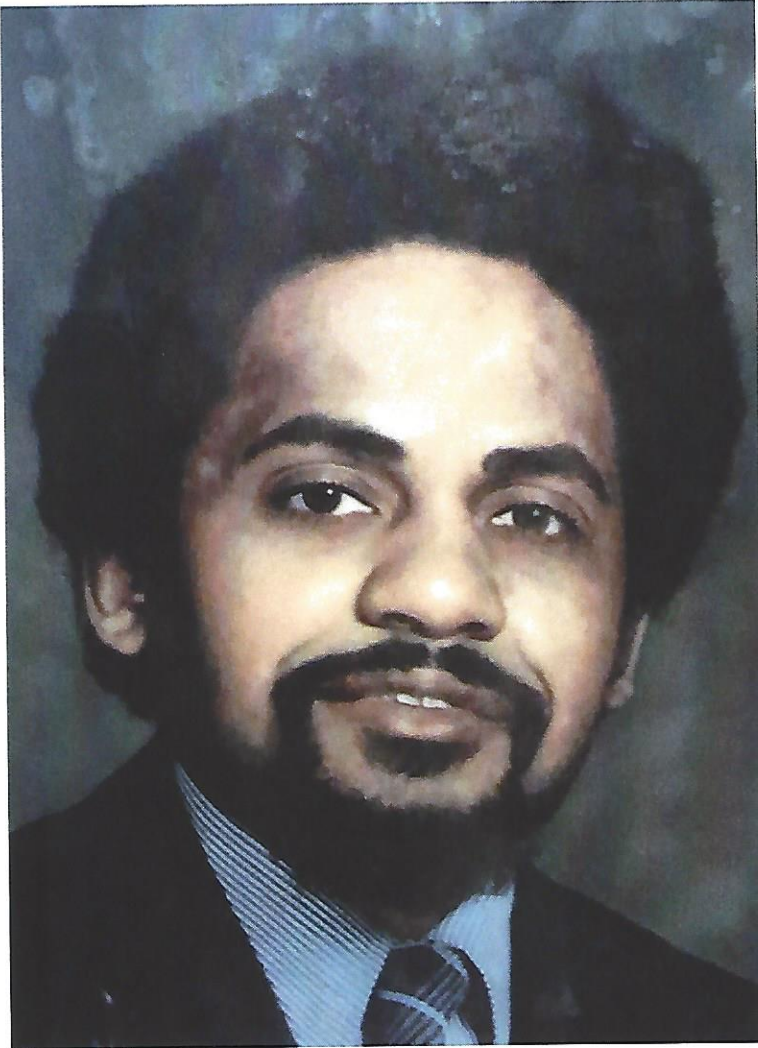
Pallbearers

Kevin Street (son)
Dr. James H Street, III (nephew)
Henry J. Fordham, IV (nephew)
Donovan Fordham (nephew)
Shane Fordham (grand-nephew)
The Honorable James Harrity, (friend)
Mark McNair (friend)
James Cartwright (friend)

Honorary

Brian Street (nephew)
Akeem Street (nephew)
Lateef Street (nephew)
Christopher Brown
William Mackey
Robert Booker
Robert White

LIFE SKETCH

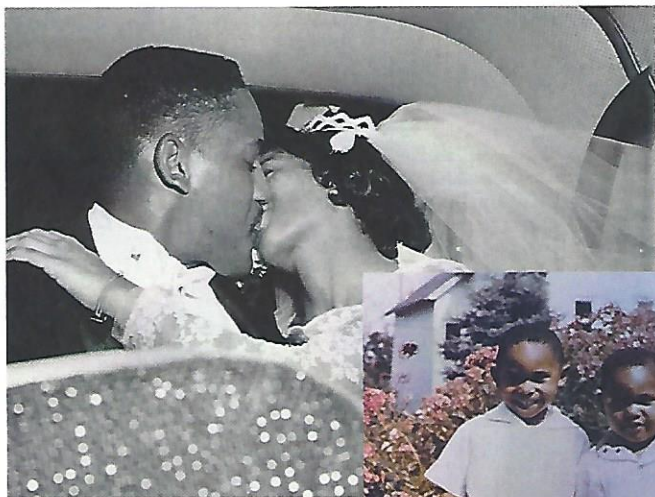


Senator Thomas Milton Street Sr., better known as T. Milton Street Sr., was born April 25, 1939. His parents James and Elizabeth raised him to be a fighter - a courageous man of faith. They equipped their son with the knowledge of God and a strong foundation of biblical truth on which he would build a formidable legacy. Throughout his long life, he faced many fights and never backed down. Having been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at the young age of 21, doctors told him he would never walk again. Not only did he rise up and walk again, but in a blatant show of physical and spiritual determination, he marched against injustice, kicked down doors of inequality, then ran for public office. Senator Street did not allow himself to be defined by his circumstances, through faith and great strength he defied limitations in every area of his life.



Senator Street grew up on a small farm outside of Norristown. He attended Conshohocken High School where his passion for sports and love of learning served as a foundation for his work ethic and determination. Senator Street, then known as Tommy, and his two brothers, the late James (Jimmy) Howard Street Jr., and John Franklin Street, former Mayor of Philadelphia, learned early in life the value of hard work, family, and faith.

CHILDHOOD & EARLY LIFE



Senator Street attended Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. After school, he returned to the heart of South Philadelphia where he spent time as a youth leader and organizer in the Ebenezer SDA Church, the very house of worship that his parents were charter members of. Under Senator Street's leadership the youth of Ebenezer became active in community outreach and community services. This included playing on a community basketball team with the young "Jelly Bean" Bryant (father of the late Kobe Bryant) - who would eventually play for the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers.

While engaged in the church and community, Senator Street married the late Zella Stacey Fordham. From this union came their three children, Rene Street Toppin, T. Milton Street Jr., and Kevin LaMar Street.

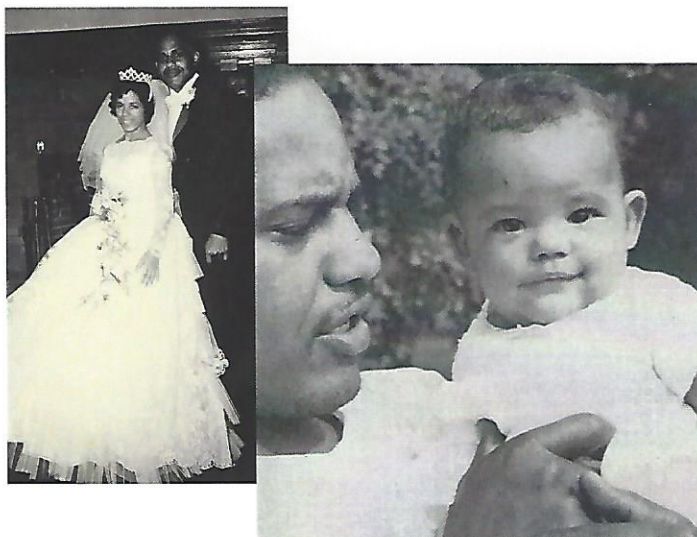
The birth of his first child Renee had a tremendous impact on Senator Street and the entire family. Renee became the first grandchild for both the Street and Fordham families. Her arrival fueled Senator Street's passion for family and brought forth a sense of balance, like nothing he had experienced before.



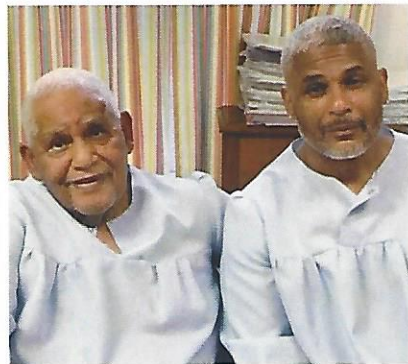
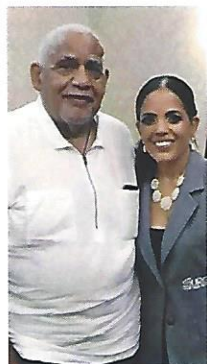
As his family was starting to grow, Senator Street's entrepreneurial talents began to take shape as well. He started his own business, "Street Food" Concessions, which provided opportunities for many people within the community, especially for those who had been overlooked and discarded.

Senator Street enlisted his brother John F. Street in his business venture, and the two worked tirelessly to provide a living for their families and others. The Street brothers faced many challenges while operating a small business. Similar to a number of Black-owned businesses, the Street brothers were deprived of equal opportunities and access to city services. This ultimately violated their rights as city vendors. The struggle came to a head in 1975 when the City Council attempted to introduce legislation to ban sidewalk vendors throughout Center City and downtown areas.

The Street brothers went to work. The pair mobilized other vendors throughout the city and joined forces with the Black Vendors Association to challenge the legislation. This marked the beginning of Senator Street's well-known civic involvement.



FAMILY

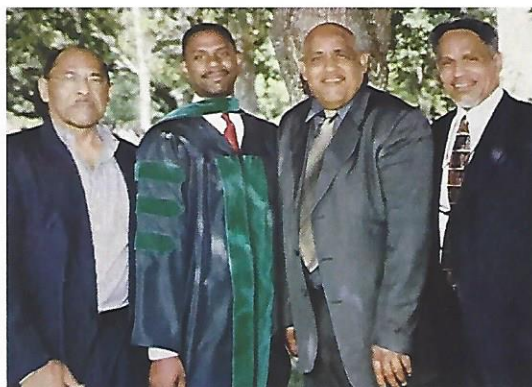
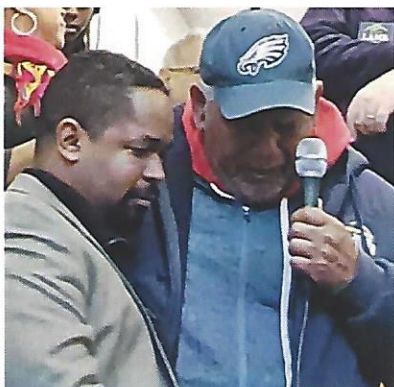
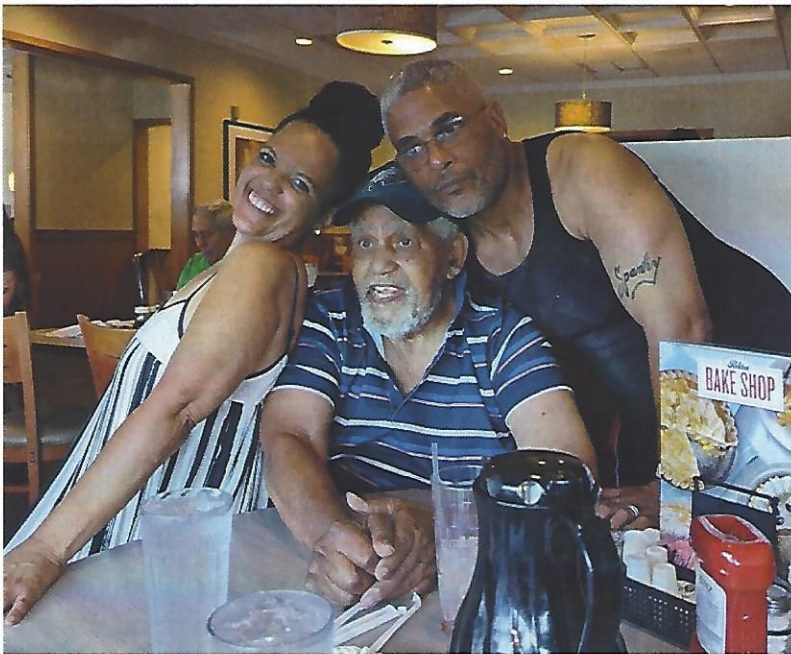


Senator Street had a strong affinity for working people and families. Having been a product of a loving and hardworking family, he was devastated to witness homelessness among working families in Philadelphia.

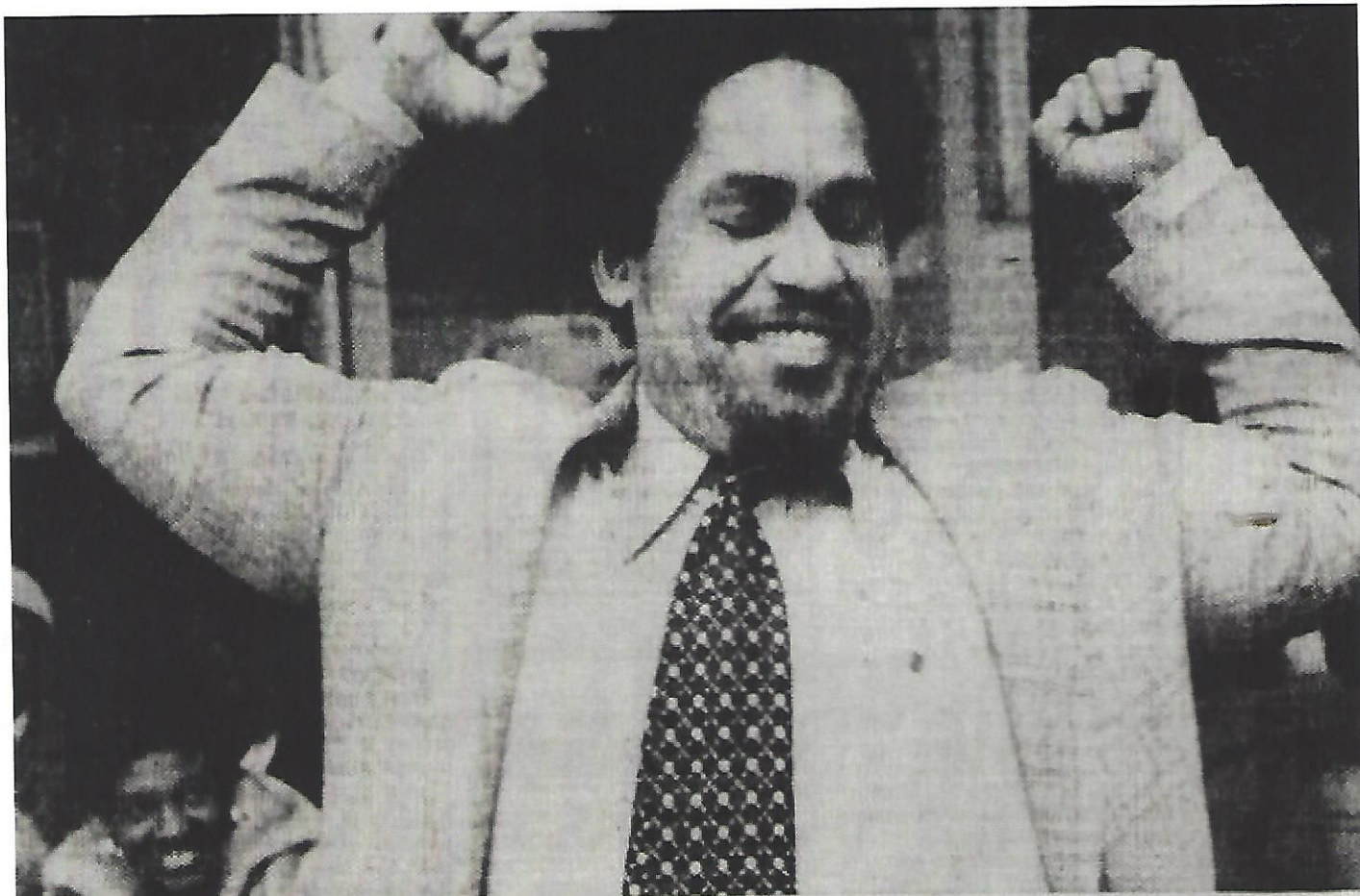
Senator Street went to work on a solution for this issue and started the “Homesteaders” movement. The movement called for the removal of chains and locks off vacant properties for the occupancy

of working families. This initiative caught the attention of the national media and was featured in an article in the *National Geographic Magazine* showing a picture with Senator Street holding a pair of bolt cutters he used to remove the chains. His protests against the policies of the Housing Authority mobilized the community forcing a change to more equitable policies and changes to serve all.

FAMILY



ACTIVISM



Milton Street lends emphasis to a point he is trying to make during a City Council session in January 1978

Senator Street's experience as an organizer on behalf of Black owned businesses and families led him to champion other social causes on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised throughout the city. In 1978, citing the disparity in Philadelphia public housing for people of color, Senator Street called for an investigation into the Housing Authority's allocation of funds towards housing projects and attempts to displace residents. Joining with other community activists that included Nellie Reynolds, Jackie McDowell, Asia Coney, and a young Darrell Clarke (now Council President), Senator Street successfully fought against the city and state ordinances leading to lasting change.

As his ability to organize and lobby for change increased, he became aware of the unfair treatment experienced by other hard-working folks, such as

the taxicab drivers of the city. The Street brothers successfully organized the vendors and taxicab drivers, leading protests and demonstrations fighting against City Hall. They brought equity to many small businesses and entrepreneurs that still enjoy and maintain today.



POLICY & IMPACT



As activists, the Street brothers set their sights on the unfair policies of the Redevelopment Authority that had historically excluded small businesses and people of color. Street found that the city's use of Community Block Development Grants (CBDG) was not directed as it was intended. This was most evident in the monies and funds appropriated for the construction of a major project development known as the Gallery Mall in Center City. At the same time, projects in poorer areas were being redlined. The Street brothers' protests against these policies forced the city to make the CBDG application process more accessible to people of color and small businesses.

It was this work in activism that helped Senator Street see the importance of having representation in the State Legislature. To enact real change and ensure issues of the poor were considered in future policies, Milton understood there needed to be an active voice in Harrisburg.

He harnessed public support through ongoing protests and activism, and eventually was elected, as a Democrat, to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served in the House from 1979 through 1980. He was then elected to the State Senate, as a Democrat, where he served from 1981-1984.

In the Senate, he became Chair of the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee; Vice Chair of

the Community and Economic Development Committee; and a member of the Finance and Law and Justice Committees.

Soon after being elected to the Senate, led by a desire to empower his constituents, Senator Street made the controversial decision to switch parties from Democrat to Republican.

He always sought to put disenfranchised and disadvantaged people first. Senator Street made political power accessible to small businesses, people of color, the homeless, and working families- all coalitions who had long been deprived of housing and equal opportunities.

4 Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1975 Phila. Daily News

Furor over Vendor Curb

By JOHN O'CONNOR

Amidst cat-calls, hissing, boisterous applause, threats and bombastic street rhetoric, City Council's Rules Committee yesterday heard business leaders say street vendors are making center city a "trash heap."

Thatcher Longstreth, president of the Philadelphia Greater Chamber of Commerce, leading off a list of 25 witnesses favoring vendor control, said, "In the 11 years I've been associated with the chamber, I've had more citizen complaints about street vendors than any other thing."

Yesterday's hearings were to test public opinion on two anti-vending bills now before City Council.

Longstreth told the hearings: An "outraged citizenry" and "hundreds of small job-creating and taxpaying storekeepers, and major department stores which employ thousands" urged the adoption of the anti-vending bills.

THE BILLS—WHICH Council President George X. Schwartz admitted were unclear, and as yet unrefined—would outlaw street vendors and sidewalk selling downtown, and allow for only limited vending in other areas. Newsstands would be allowed.

Lynne Abraham, Council legal consultant, testified the proposed law would ban vendors of pretzels, fruits, flowers, ices and jewelry. She said present laws are being violated in many instances "but they are not enforced against anybody anywhere in the city."

Longstreth told the hearings—against a background of boisterous support from the Black Vendors' Association—"If the millions of tourists we hope to have here next year have to wade through what to them will look like a junk heap, they will go home disgusted with Philadelphia."

Longstreth denied the anti-vending sentiment had racial overtones. He said a December survey of center city disclosed 111 individual sidewalk enterprises showed only 39 manned by blacks or other minorities.

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The Philadelphia Tribune

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Public Housing Protesters Removed From Council, Jailed



By JIM DAVIS
(Of The Tribune Staff)

Five anti-housing protesters supporting an investigation demand of Luzerne County residents, were forcefully removed from City Council chambers yesterday (Thursday) after they failed to heed the warnings of Council President George X. Schwartz.

The five protesters, among 20 attending weekly sessions, were arrested following their removal, and were charged with interrupting the process of Council and with disorderly conduct.

THE CONFRONTATION started when the protesters disrupted the meeting after Council failed to act on an investigation resolution. Moore introduced last week.

Moore's resolution called for an investigation of the Philadelphia Housing Authority through a Council investigative committee. The

Although the proposed investigation will be directed at all the public housing projects managed by PHA, residents of Raymond House projects in North Philadelphia have been the leading supporters of the resolution.

Protesters attending yesterday's session were also concerned over recent published reports indicating that PHA (Philadelphia Housing Authority) has plans to convert many of the city's high-cost housing for the poor into quarters for the elderly.

THEIR CONCERN was displayed when Council voted to adopt a resolution asking for \$5 million dollars from the federal government in order to make needed repairs in Raymond House projects.

After the vote, the residents

Continued on Page 11

POLICY & IMPACT

Senator Street envisioned a government that worked for all citizens, regardless of political affiliation. He fought to break down barriers and enact change through policy making.

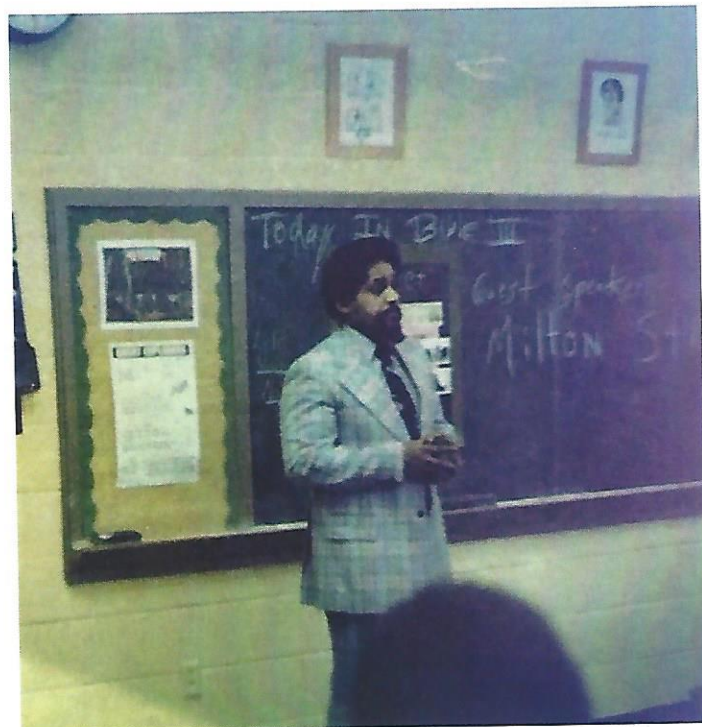
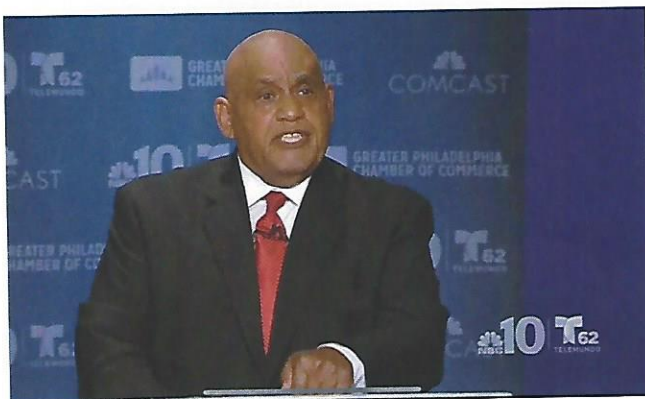
The public policies he put forth in the Legislature were decades before their time. He advocated for many socio-economic causes including gaming, funding seniors through the lottery, and the legalization of cannabis. The impact of his progressive approach was so profound it can still be seen today within the State Legislature and among all residents in Pennsylvania.

While not working in the General Assembly, Milton continued to give voice to the concerns of the poor and underprivileged. His passion remained in community activism and ending violence that continued to plague Philadelphia, and it showed in the various public service roles he took on. He served as an assistant budget director with the Philadelphia Traffic Court; a consultant

with the American Christian Institute; CEO and consultant of the General Asphalt Paving Company and Philadelphia Airport Services; a founder; and he remained active in other ventures.

His political legacy looms so large it includes the successes of his brother, lawyer John F. Street, and nephew, current State Senator Sharif Street, esq.

Milton was thrilled to see John elected to Philadelphia City Council and eventually serve seven years as City Council President. John then resigned to successfully run and be elected Mayor of Philadelphia. Senator Sharif Street made Milton proud by demonstrating the same passions for public service that he had built his career on. Most recently, Senator Sharif Street was named State Party Democratic Chair.





To the very end, Senator T. Milton Street Sr. believed in better possibilities for Pennsylvania. He dreamed of making Philadelphia a safer place to live, equal access to education, housing for working families, funding for seniors, and an end to violence in every neighborhood and community.

Senator Street's marriage to Zella Fordham, the mother of his three children, eventually ended but they remained good friends until her death in 1995. Senator Street's constant companion over the last thirty years was Terri Ragunan who became his confidant and best friend until her death in 2020. Her daughter Michelle remained a part of his life until the very end.

Senator T. Milton Street Sr. was preceded in death by his parents and his brother James. He is survived by his brother John F. Street, Esq. former Mayor of the City of Philadelphia; his children Renee Street Toppin, T. Milton Street Jr., and Kevin LaMar Street; grandchildren from Chandler Toppin (Renee), Alexis Street, Eric Rymer, and Taylor (Milton Jr.), and Kevin Street (Kevin); and 6 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews Karen Street, Dr. James H. Street III, Brian Street, Kim Street (James), Senator Sharif Street, Rasheeda Ngu, Lateef Street, Akeem Street (John), Henry J. Fordham IV, Shawn Fordham, Donovan Fordham, Rashika Barnes (Zella), David Barnes (Zella), along with a host of cousins, family, and friends.

**“ WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT
BUT JOY WILL COME IN THE MORNING! ”**

The Family