

Resolution

NO. 861

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF GERALD NUGENT

WHEREAS, the late Gerald Nugent, born into mortality in New York City on October 14, 1927, and departed into eternity on April 14, 1993, in Redwood City, California, father of April and Gerald, lived a life of incorruptible integrity characterized by active commitment to and patient persistence in the struggle to end racial injustice towards African-Americans and other minorities from the time he found himself the victim of discrimination while a soldier serving with the Army of the United States during World War II until the last day of his earthly life; and

WHEREAS, he selflessly served as the business manager of Nairobi College of East Palo Alto from the early 1970s until its closing in order to further the cause of education, dignity and pride among African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, he struggled as a member of the East Palo Alto Citizens' Committee on Incorporation (EPACCI) for the incorporation of East Palo Alto against tremendous opposition, resulting in the ultimate triumph of the cause for the incorporation of East Palo Alto on July 1, 1983, and the victory of the principle of political self-determination by the predominantly minority population of East Palo Alto; and

WHEREAS, he fought unwaveringly together with other members of the East Palo Alto Council of Tenants (EPACT) for affordable and decent housing and against discrimination in housing and personally organized and educated tenants to understand and exercise their rights under the Rent Stabilization and Good Cause for Eviction Ordinance of East Palo Alto; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of EPACT and as the Treasurer of EPACT from 1989 until his passing and also served on the Board of Directors of the EPACT Education Fund during the same period; and

WHEREAS, he continued his services to the education of African-Americans by working as the accountant for Shule Mandela Academy of East Palo Alto as a volunteer when there were no funds to pay him for his services up until the day before he died; and

WHEREAS, Shule Mandela Academy of East Palo Alto honored his devotion to the children (each of whom he fondly addressed as "my friend") with a memorial tribute that stated that he was to the children their father, their brother, their comrade, and most importantly, their elder, whose life symbolized the true meaning of *nguzo saba*; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in providing inspiration and support to older young people in the East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park community who looked up to him as a role model, who sought his counsel, and who affectionately called him "Poppy"; and


WHEREAS, he was an example and a teacher to people of all races of wit, honor, integrity, and unflappable dignity unyielding to adversity, all that a human being should strive to be;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of East Palo Alto that it hereby honors the life of Gerald Nugent that in so doing that it may inspire others in years to come as part of the great heritage of African-Americans and all the citizens and residents of the United States of America.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this. 17th day of May, 1993 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:


Deputy City Clerk

SIGNED:


Sharifa Wilson, Mayor

