

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James Hendon on the death of Mayor David Dinkins

New York City Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James Hendon released the following remarks on the passing of Veteran and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins.

“David Dinkins was a trailblazer who led a life devoted to the service of others and creating a better and fairer city for the “gorgeous mosaic” of the 8 ½ million residents who live here. As the first Black Mayor of New York City, he made significant contributions to the New York City Police Department’s size, revitalized Times Square, and made substantial investments in rehabilitating housing in Manhattan and the Bronx. His win also opened the door for the generations who would follow him into city government.

Being Mayor was only part of David Dinkins’s rich life of service. During World War II, he proudly served his country as a Marine—notably as one of the Montford Point Marines. After the war, he attended Howard University and returned to New York, where he ran a law firm, served as a State Assembly member, City Clerk, and as Manhattan Borough President. Throughout his life, he was a member of numerous nonprofits such as One Hundred Black Men. He also served on the board of humanitarian organizations to help create a better city and world. During all of this, his rock was his wife of six decades, Joyce, who died two months ago.

Today, New Yorker is a little sadder for the loss of this giant who meant so much to all who knew him intimately and through his honorable public service. Yet, we celebrate and remain hopeful, knowing that New York City—and the State as a whole—is a better place to live because of the many contributions that he made.”

About the New York City Department of Veterans' Services

The mission of the NYC Department of Veterans' Services is to connect, mobilize, and empower New York City’s Veteran community in order to foster purpose-driven lives for US Military Service Members—past and present—in addition to their caregivers, survivors, and families. We assist NYC Veteran community members on issues that include, but are not limited to employment, housing, food security, wellbeing, benefits, culture, and targeted advocacy. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/vets, call (212) 416-5250, email connect@veterans.nyc.gov, or follow us on social media @nycveterans.