

John Mack's Leadership

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On Thursday, June 21, 2018, a John Mack passed away at the age of 81. Although to the average person living on the East Coast, someone like John Mack's death may not have been of much significance, but to the city of Los Angeles, losing John Mack was an irreplaceable loss. John Mack was an important civic leader, nonprofit chief executive, and a city government appointee. He was someone



who fought against social inequity and for racial justice. Mr. Mack was compassionate, always working, and a man with a strong moral agenda. A man who worked to break down racial barriers and bring an overall happiness to Los Angeles. John Mack not only worked in government and nonprofit spaces in order to change Los Angeles through policy but he also was a man who worked to support many people individually. These attitudes and habits of John Mack led to his popularity and to him being cherished throughout the community, which is why his death

meant so much to so many people.

I had the privilege to attend John Mack's funeral and I was so glad that I did. The diversity in the crowd was something that I took particular interest in. The fact that several police officers and chiefs, government workers, current and former mayors, and even Magic Johnson showed up was a major testament of his importance to people.

As the funeral started, Rev Kelvin Sauls, former Senior Pastor of Holman United Methodist Church, described Mr. Mack as having "the audacity to face the rising sun". What I thought that the line reflected was how John Mack, against a foreboding challenge, faced challenges head on and stayed ready to conquer.

Throughout the funeral several people gave a speech about Mr Mack. One theme ran strongly through each of them and it was the invaluable impact of his presence. John Mack was hailed as a mentor, teacher, leader, father, and a friend with each being just as important as the other. So many people had such nice things to say such as one speaker hailing John Mack as "the hammer to ring the liberty bell," "a masterpiece," or "if you wanted to study leadership just look at John Mack."

John Mack's funeral as a whole was a great learning experience for me. As a young African American man growing up in Los Angeles, it is important for me to find role models in the world that can guide me in the right ways. Although Mr. Mack can't guide me on my individual issues, I can look to him as a prime example of what a truly good man should look like. John Mack was someone who wanted to help all people and made sure to interact with both the lawmakers and the people affected by the laws in order to turn a bad situation into a win-win for all people. He was a friend to all and an advocate for the people who had no voice. I hope to employ his practices into my future career so that I can be at least half the man that he was. John Mack was a hardworking and honest man, and that's what everybody should strive to be.

Photo by (Francine Orr/Los Angeles Times/2012)