

Louis Stokes Museum Opens at Outhwaite Homes



Congressman Louis Stokes speaking at the opening ceremonies for the Louis Stokes Museum on September 13, 2007 at Outhwaite Homes Estate.

In the presence of about 300 public officials, current and former residents, Board members, staff and guests, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) opened the new Louis Stokes Museum on Thursday, September 13, 2007, in honor of the retired Congressman from Ohio. While paying tribute to the many contributions of Congressman Stokes to improving the quality of life of public housing residents nationwide, the museum is also designed to educate and inspire individuals, especially those who face economic challenges.

Located at 4302 Quincy Avenue in the Outhwaite Homes Estate where the Congressman was raised with his late brother, Carl, by his widowed mother, Louise, the museum is open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays with private viewings available by calling 216 432-3840. It houses Stokes memorabilia, video interviews, miscellaneous video footage, awards and a written history about the Congressman and his rise to prominence.

Louis Stokes played a pivotal role in the quest for civil rights, equality, social and economic justice throughout his 1969 – 1998 tenure in the United States Congress. As Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, he was responsible for crafting legislation and authorizing funding for many initiatives that directly benefited public housing authorities and the families they serve.

The Louis Stokes Museum is a joint project of the Stokes Family and CMHA. The prime construction contractor for the museum was Glory Construction, an African American and female-owned enterprise. The architectural design was provided by Lowenstein Durante Architects and CMHA staff. CMHA Program Coordinator Tony Jeffries served as the museum Curator, while Hector Vega, CMHA Construction Manager, served as Designer of the museum exhibits.



George A. Phillips, CMHA CEO; Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones; Congressman Louis Stokes; Municipal Court Judge Angela Stokes; Jeffery K. Patterson, CMHA Chief of Staff; Lora M. Thompson, LMT Productions.



Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and Congressman Stokes view Museum photo of him swearing her into office as his successor on January 3, 1999.



The Men of Kappa Alpha Psi surprised Congressman Stokes with a special presentation and submission for the Museum honoring their fraternity brother. CMHA Vice Chairman William Smith, a member of the fraternity, is standing to the right of the Congressman.