

Dear Board Members,

Tonight, we gather to recognize and honor an extraordinary individual, Ms. Portia Johnson, whose unwavering commitment to justice and equality has left an indelible mark on our community.

Portia's journey showcased her resilience and dedication to the civil rights movement and the pursuit of social justice.

From her early years, she displayed a relentless drive to challenge systemic injustices. Her work with the NAACP and other civil rights organizations exemplified her leadership and courage.

Portia's advocacy for education and equal opportunities has transformed the lives of countless individuals, creating a legacy of empowerment.

Portia helped start the IAAA the Institute for Afro-American Awareness.

In 2016, during an interview, she was asked about her experience with the IAAA and its effort to build the community for African Americans in Duluth. Let's hear from Portia herself.

Portia Johnson's story is one of determination and hope. She fought for her rights and the rights of others and has been a beacon of inspiration for future generations.

Her contributions to civil rights re-mind us that change is possible when we stand united.

Unfortunately, Portia transitioned over the weekend. Our thoughts and condolences are with her family and friends.

Ms. Portia Johnson will always be remembered for her tireless efforts and enduring impact.

Her legacy will continue to inspire us all to strive for a more just and equitable society.