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**CLERK DOROTHY BROWN REMEMBERS EUGENE SAWYER
AS A POLITICAL LEADER OF QUIET DIGNITY**

I am greatly saddened to experience the loss of former Chicago Mayor Mr. Eugene Sawyer, one of our city's great political leaders, just days after mourning the passing of former Cook County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr. These two men were African American political history makers, and both dedicated their lives to the betterment of our society.

My heartfelt prayers go out to Sawyer's wife Veronica, two sons, Shedrick and Roderick, and daughter Sheryl McGill, Commissioner of Human Services for the City of Chicago; his brothers and sister, Charles, Ernest, John and Shirley, and his four grandchildren.

The residents of Chicago were fortunate to have had a man as courageous as Eugene Sawyer involved in the city's political arena. Soft-spoken and gentle-mannered, Sawyer was propelled into a precarious position when he was selected to succeed Mayor Harold Washington, who died in office unexpectedly on Nov. 25, 1987. One week later, it required enormous bravery on the part of Sawyer to step into the leadership void left by the popular mayor. However, Eugene filled the void and faithfully carried the late mayor's agenda forward.

As mayor, Sawyer calmly brought the city through a turbulent time that was compounded by a grieving public. Sawyer was known for his easy rapport with diverse groups and he was able to push through a progressive agenda for the advancement of the city. He saw to it that the human rights ordinance was passed and that the city continued its governmental outreach to develop cooperative partnerships with business, industry and minorities.

I admire the fact that Sawyer diligently worked his way up in the city's water department after arriving in Chicago in 1957. He applied the same single-mindedness to climbing the Democratic Party ranks in the 6th Ward. After being elected 6th Ward Alderman in 1971, Sawyer's 20-year tenure in city government illustrated his commitment and dedication to serving people and contributing to good governance.

A true civil servant, I commend the life of Eugene Sawyer. He was a man dedicated to his city, and he served with quiet dignity.

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