

**Record: 1**

**Title:** Atlanta's Maynard Jackson passes on at 65.

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**Source:** New York Amsterdam News; 6/26/2003, Vol. 94 Issue 26, p4, 1/4p, 1 bw

**Document Type:** Article

**Subject Terms:** JACKSON, Maynard, 1938-2003  
AFRICAN American mayors

**Geographic Terms:** ATLANTA (Ga.)  
GEORGIA Report Available  
UNITED States Report Available

**Abstract:** Maynard Jackson, who became Atlanta, Georgia's first African-American mayor at age 35 and later laid the groundwork for the city to host the 1996 Olympics, died due to a heart attack on Monday, as of June 26, 2003. Julian Bond, board chair of the NAACP, called Jackson's death a great loss for the nation. Bond also said that Jackson was a "political pioneer," demonstrating in a statewide losing race against the late Senator Herman Talmadge that Black Georgians would not be taken for granted. Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, but grew up in Atlanta, graduating from Morehouse College at age 18.

**Lexile:** 1110

**Full Text Word Count:** 441

**ISSN:** 10591818

**Accession Number:** 10158348

**Database:** MAS Ultra - School Edition

**Atlanta's Maynard Jackson passes on at 65**

Maynard Jackson, who became Atlanta's first African-American mayor at age 35 and later laid the groundwork for the city to host the 1996 Olympics, is dead.

Jackson, 65, died in the nation's capital of a heart attack on Monday. He apparently never fully recovered following a major heart surgery some 11 years ago after his physicians found six arterial blockages.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete at deadline.

Julian Bond, board chair of the NAACP, called Jackson's death a great loss for the nation. "I have lost an old friend; the NAACP has lost a former board member and longtime supporter," said Bond.

He described Jackson as an "invaluable champion of justice and fair play" and one who inspired Black folks by leading by example to become Atlanta's first African-American chief executive.

Bond also said that Jackson was a "political pioneer," demonstrating in a statewide losing race against the late Sen. Herman Talmadge that Black Georgians would not be taken for granted.

"His insistence on affirmative action at the then-new Atlanta Airport created 'many Black businesses, and he spent his later years insisting on equity in America's financial services industry," Bond recalled.

During Jackson's three terms as mayor, Kweisi Mfume, head of the NAACP, observed that he dared to be different by daring to make a difference.

"There are many Black people leading comfortable lives today who owe their success to him," Mfume said.

In 2001, Jackson made a bid for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee, but later withdrew. He was then named chair of the committee's Voting Rights Institute and was heavily involved in the fight for election reform.

Jackson was born in Dallas, Texas, but grew up in Atlanta, graduating from Morehouse College at age 18. He earned a law degree from North Carolina Central University.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) said that Jackson's legacy would not be forgotten. "Maynard's dedication to public service is commendable and his leadership will be sorely missed," said CBC's chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md).

Outside of politics Jackson was involved in the early planning of the 1996 Olympic Games. In 1992 he went to Barcelona to receive the Olympic flag for Atlanta at the close of that year's Summer Games.

But in 1993, Jackson announced he would not seek a fourth term, "for necessary, unavoidable and compelling personal reasons and duties." After leaving office, he opened a financial services business, Jackson Securities.

Jackson is also remembered as "a great husband, father, leader and friend."

PHOTO (BLACK & WHITE): MAYNARD JACKSON

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By J. Zamgba Browne, Amsterdam News Staff

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