

RONALD G. WATERS, MEMBER  
191ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
HEALTH  
JUDICIARY

PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS,  
CHAIRMAN

- 6027 LUDLOW STREET, UNIT A  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19139  
PHONE: (215) 748-6712  
FAX: (215) 748-1687
- ROOM 328 K. LEROY IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202191  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2191  
PHONE: (717) 772-9850  
FAX: (717) 783-1516

**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Ronald G. Waters

**SUBJECT:** Request for Co-Sponsorship

**DATE:** July 26, 2012

---

In the near future, I intend to introduce a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Sherman Alexander Hemsley, an actor recognized for his role as George Jefferson in the popular television show, "The Jeffersons," who passed away on July 24, 2012 at the age of 74.

Mr. Hemsley was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He attended Philadelphia's Academy of Dramatic Arts prior to moving to New York in 1967 to pursue his acting career. He joined the Negro Ensemble Company where he appeared in Off Broadway productions. Later he joined Vinnette Carroll's Urban Arts Company. In 1970, Mr. Hemsley was casted as the character Gitlow in the Broadway musical "Purlie." As a result of his stellar performance as Gitlow, Mr. Hemsley was introduced to television audiences as Archie Bunker's neighbor, George Jefferson in "All in the Family," in 1973.

Mr. Hemsley's role as George Jefferson became so popular among television audiences that it led to a spinoff series entitled, "The Jeffersons" which debuted in January of 1975. "The Jeffersons" remained a household favorite for eleven seasons through 1985. Mr. Hemsley continued his television career starring as Deacon Ernest Frye in the series "Amen" beginning in 1986. "Amen" ran for five seasons until 1991. In addition to his acting career, Mr. Hemsley was an accomplished jazz keyboardist; releasing a single entitled, "Ain't That a Kick in the Head."

Mr. Hemsley will be remembered for his humor, quick wit, and creative comedic talent. He has finally in the words of "The Jeffersons" theme song received his, "deluxe apartment in the sky." If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution please contact Nilda Jenkins at (717) 772-6955 or via e-mail at [njenkins@pahouse.net](mailto:njenkins@pahouse.net).