

# IVAN ALLEN

## IADA EXHIBIT

### LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Ivan Allen Jr. served two terms as the Mayor of Atlanta; he played a big role in the Civil Rights Movement more specifically desegregation. As the Mayor, Ivan Allen Jr. was successful in desegregating both the public and private sectors in Atlanta, before testifying in front of Congress to advocate the completion of the emancipation proclamation which was started by President John F. Kennedy. His testimony ultimately led to the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 'Letters Expressing Appreciation' is a digital archive in the Georgia Tech archives that contains a mix of articles and letters. This specific section of the digital archive focuses on how people positively responded to Mayor Ivan Allen's testimony at the Senate Commerce Committee.



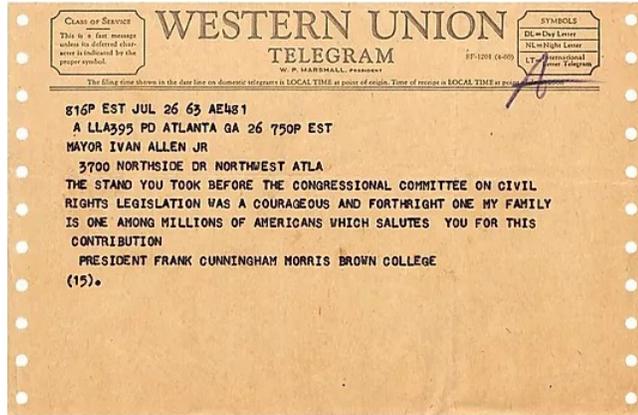
This letter was sent by Daniel Keefe from Georgetown South Carolina on July 28th, 1963. The letter was sent in response to Mayor Ivan Allen's testimony on the Civil Rights Bill, with the purpose of congratulating and thanking Mayor Ivan Allen on what he's accomplished at the Senate's Commerce Committee. Daniel Keefe repeatedly emphasizes how courageous Mayor Ivan Allen was for expressing his opinion, going as far as saying 'makes me wish I lived in Atlanta so that I could vote for you.' The aforementioned quote not only emphasizes how Mayor Ivan Allen's stand was perceived as an incredibly brave act, but more importantly it demonstrates how Mayor Ivan Allen's stand was able to inspire and influence people around the country. Daniel Keefe ends his letter with 'may the south be blessed with more leaders like you', painting Mayor Ivan Allen as an inspirational figure and a hero to the south.

This letter was sent by the Frank Cunningham

Start Now

president of the liberal arts college Morris Brown in Atlanta Georgia on July 26th, 1963. In the letter Frank Cunningham shows his appreciation for Mayor Ivan Allen's work, more specifically his stand on the Civil Rights Bill in the congressional committee. The fact that the president of Morris Brown College personally wrote to Mayor Ivan Allen highlights how big of a contribution Mayor Ivan Allen made towards the desegregation movement with his testimony and stand at the Senate Conference Committee. Frank Cunningham ends his letter of appreciation to Mayor Ivan Allen with 'my family is one among millions of Americans which salute you for your contribution' which illustrates how Mayor Ivan Allen has gained the trust and support of millions of Americans around the United States.

Name: Title:



### Atlanta's Mayor Speaks

On rare occasions the oratorical fog on Capitol Hill is pierced by a voice resonant with courage and dignity. Such a voice was heard when Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. of Atlanta testified before the Senate Commerce Committee in support of President Kennedy's bill to prohibit racial discrimination in stores, restaurants and other public accommodations.

On the basis of the very substantial accomplishments that his city of a half-million, the largest in the Southeast, has made in desegregating publicly owned and privately owned facilities, he might have come as a champion of "states' rights" and of the ability of localities to banish discrimination without Federal law. Certainly, he would have had much more warrant to espouse that view than the Barretts, the Wallaces and the other arch-segregationists who raise the specter of Federal "usurpation" as a device for keeping Southern Negroes in subjection.

But Mr. Allen was not in Washington to boast. He was there to warn that even in cities like Atlanta the progress that had been made might be wiped out if Congress turned its back on the Kennedy proposal and thus gave implied endorsement to the concept that private businesses were free to discriminate. He left behind this charge to finish the job started with the Emancipation Proclamation a century ago: "Now the elimination of segregation, which is slavery's stepchild, is a challenge to all of us to make every American free in fact as well as in theory—and again to establish our nation as the true champion of the free world."

This newspaper column doesn't feature an author or date but based on the topic of discussion it can be assumed that it was written shortly after Mayor Ivan Allen's testimony at Capitol Hill which took place on the 26th of July 1963. The article discusses the importance of Mayor Ivan Allen's stand at the Senate Commerce Committee in support of desegregation and goes onto praise Mayor Ivan Allen for what he's already accomplished in Atlanta (his city) with regards to desegregating both the public and private sectors. The strong opening line 'On rare occasions the oratorical fog on Capitol Hill is pierced by a voice resonant with courage and dignity' illustrates how powerful Mayor Ivan Allen's testimony was in advocating and preaching desegregation. The article goes on to praise Mayor Ivan Allen for what he's accomplished in Atlanta and the movement he's set in motion, continuously highlighting specifically his courage and determination and ultimately paints Mayor Ivan Allen as a true hero for all the south. The article ends by highlighting Mayor Ivan Allen's use of 'slavery's step-child' to describe desegregation which he uses to not only illustrate how highly he regards the issue but more importantly to effectively communicate to Congress and to the people of the United States how big of threat desegregation is.

This undated newspaper article was written by Pat Watters. In the article, the author, Pat

endorsed Kennedy's public accommodation legislation when he knew 'his stand was bound not to sit well with some'. Mayor Ivan Allen's simple response was he did because he was qualified, stating 'The country's in the biggest mess it's ever been, and the Congress has not taken a single step to help clarify things'. The article moves on to talk about the ten steps Mayor Ivan Allen took to desegregate Atlanta and celebrates his achievements but also highlights how Mayor Allen still sees shortcomings and is looking to do more which highlights Ivan Allen's persistence and drive. The article ends by stressing how Mayor Ivan Allen's actions were necessary with the closing remarks emphasizing his immense sense of responsibility and true leadership.

**VOICE OF EXPERIENCE**

## Mayor Allen Explains Why He Spoke On Civil Rights Bill

By **PAT WATTERS**

*"We cannot dodge this issue . . . We must take action now to assure a greater future for our citizens and our country."—Mayor Ivan Allen, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce.*

NOT EVEN considering its considerable political implications, Mayor Ivan Allen's endorsement of the Kennedy public accommodations legislation was one of those sort of surprise news stories of the highest significance.

I was intrigued with the question of why he did it.

In the past, he has not sounded off to any great public extent on the essentials of civil rights, sticking instead to specifics of local situations. He was not one of those on either side with stock reactions easily predictable. His credentials in the blue-chip community of business (whose freedoms are supposed to be so threatened by the legislation) are well known.



opinion shouldn't be overlooked. As a leadership and prestige influence, they say to people puzzled and troubled over the measure that it is possible to be for the historical imperatives and morality involved without being hounded as a hopeless idealist or Communist or something.)

He didn't have to speak out. His stand was bound not to sit well with some. I finally went over and asked him why he did it.

In effect, he said he did because he was qualified to. No other political officials in America, he pointed out, have had to face full-blast the practical job of the civil rights revolution as have city officials like himself. (And not all city officials either, he said—which is true over most of Georgia.)

He is convinced from such experience, he said, that it is high time, nine years after the school ruling, that the federal government help out with the problems created by the mandates of the federal courts. This, he said, is the "biggest social problem in my lifetime," and Congress needs to act on it.

ernments to handle as difficult a problem as this . . . with no help, no definitions, no support. It's been damn unfair."

He cited ten recent desegregation steps Atlanta has made as an example. (These were listed in his statement to the committee, along with, incidentally, an assessment of our achievements and still-serious shortcomings better than any I've ever seen, a portrayal of Atlanta to the nation and world more honorable and in the real sense more favorable than any in some years.)

**IN MIDDLE**

In most of those ten steps, Mayor Allen pointed out, he was caught in the middle—working for "logical agreements." His point was that so much of it shouldn't be on a mayor and city officials, and that often to the hurt of a city and the nation, officials duck out of such responsibility. "You never please many with any decision" in the situation, he said.

His decision to speak, then, and what he said came out of the pragmatic knowledge of firsthand experience such as few

America have of a situation out which many have opinions. As such, what he said was significant. His decision to say may be even more important this crucial midpoint in his political office—for what it says of his character and his accept of his responsibility. It is of such decisions come important leaders.

