

In Memoriam

Douglas J. Dillard

February 2, 1945 – May 24, 2025

- WHEREAS,** Douglas Jerome Dillard was born on February 2, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan to Christopher and Virginia Dillard. He graduated from the historic Northwestern High School in 1963. He went on to earn an Associate's Degree in Computer Science from Henry Ford Community College, and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Management from the Detroit Institute of Technology; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In 1967, Mr. Dillard began a distinguished twenty-seven-year career at Ford Motor Company as a Designer, leading to his involvement in the Association of Black Automotive Employees. In 1970, he began playing slow-pitch softball and inner league basketball. He went on to start his own companies, most notably Nova Development Group along with his partner Drew Creamer. Together they developed Gray Street Affordable Housing working alongside the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) to provide permanent housing to women with children who survived domestic abuse. They also went on to develop Xavier Square, a community resource designed to support individuals with disabilities. Gray Street and Xavier Square represent an enduring legacy of Doug's commitment to equity, dignity, and community empowerment; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Douglas and Gloria Dillard began their relationship six decades ago, growing into a lifelong friendship. They were married twenty-seven years. He loved to travel having visited most of the continental U.S., Cuba, Costa Rica and British Columbia. In his freetime, Mr. Dillard DJ'd parties and events.. He was a standout player, earning numerous All-Star and Most Valuable Player honors. In October 2016 he was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame, and he also participated and placed in the Huntsman Senior Games for Track & Field as well as Softball. Doug remained active until the age of 78, only stopping due to illness. Doug took pride in being an engaged neighbor and was a long-standing member of the Miller Grove Neighborhood Association. He gave his time generously to support and uplift his neighborhood. Doug lived life with joy and generosity. Even in challenging times, his optimism never wavered. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED,** That on this day, June 13, 2025, **President Pro Tempore James E. Tate, Jr.**, and the entire **Detroit City Council**, hereby present this testimonial resolution *in memoriam*, on behalf of the residents of the City of Detroit, to the family of Douglas Jerome Dillard who cherished his connections in the City of Detroit. He will always be remembered for his joyful personality, open heart, and radiant smile. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the community he helped build.