

# Louis Stokes, retired U.S. Congressman and father of WXYZ editorial director, passes away at age 90

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(WXYZ) - Former Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes has passed away at the age of 90.

Mr. Stokes made history in 1968 when he became the first African-American Representative to be voted into national office in the state of Ohio. From there, Stokes served 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

President Barack Obama issued the following statement about Louis Stokes:

**Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of former Congressman Louis Stokes. As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African-American to represent the state of Ohio in Congress, Lou believed deeply in fairness and the idea that every American should have the same opportunity to succeed. Growing up in Depression-era Cleveland with his mother and brother Carl, Lou triumphed over hardship to become a passionate voice for those less fortunate. He fought to expand access to quality healthcare in struggling communities and worked tirelessly on behalf of hardworking Ohioans. Lou leaves behind an indelible legacy in the countless generations of young leaders that he inspired, and he will be sorely missed. Michelle and I send our condolences to his wife Jay and the family and friends who loved him so dearly.**

Louis Stokes is the father of Channel 7 Editorial Director, Chuck Stokes.

**See the video player above for the statement released from Stokes' family.**