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## Tubbs Jones Dies After Suffering Brain Aneurysm

### Congresswoman Was Found In 'Obvious Medical Distress'

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**EAST CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones died Wednesday evening after suffering an aneurysm, the Cleveland Clinic confirmed.

Tubbs Jones, 58, was admitted to Huron Hospital in East Cleveland Tuesday night. Hospital President Dr. Gus Kiouss said she suffered an aneurysm.

The hemorrhage was in an inaccessible part of Jones' brain, Kiouss said during a news conference at the hospital earlier on Wednesday.

A team of doctors who evaluated her determined she had limited brain function. She remained in critical condition throughout the day before she died just after 6 p.m., the Cleveland Clinic said.

A statement from Huron Hospital, the Cleveland Clinic and Tubbs Jones' family read, "Throughout the course of the day and into this evening, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones' medical condition declined. Medical doctors and neurosurgeons from Huron Hospital and Cleveland Clinic sadly report that at 6:12 p.m. Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones died.

"She dedicated her life in public service to helping others and will continue to do so through organ donations.

"Please keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time."

Several local politicians gathered at the hospital during the day on Wednesday. NewsChannel5 talked with Ward 10 Cleveland City Councilman Roosevelt Coats who was visibly shaken.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson released the following statement on the death of Tubbs Jones:

"My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. I have lost a dear friend, and Cleveland, and the region, has lost a Champion. Stephanie was undeniably a fiercely passionate and loyal public servant for the State of Ohio. This is truly a profound loss, a deep void in public service that can not be filled, I will miss her."

Jackson has also ordered all flags to be lowered to half staff at City Hall Wednesday.

Cleveland Heights police said Tubbs Jones' car was observed traveling east on Mayfield Road at about 9 p.m. in a weaving fashion. The officer activated the cruiser's emergency lights and attempted to pull the vehicle over. The vehicle started rolling across the southbound lanes.

Police said Tubbs Jones was found in "obvious medical distress."

Former U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes talked with NewsChannel5 about his colleague and friend after learning that she had been hospitalized.

"Certainly, she is in all of our prayers. I think people all over the nation who know her and love her as I do are sending up prayers on her behalf," Stokes said. "She is a real star in the United States Congress."

The 58-year-old Democrat became the first black woman to represent Ohio in Congress when she was elected in 1998.

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The 11th Congressional District includes the east side and parts of the west side of Cleveland, as well as 22 suburbs.

She was the first African-American woman to sit on the Common Pleas bench in the State of Ohio and was a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Cleveland.

She was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a longtime member of Bethany Baptist Church.

She was educated in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and graduated from Case Western Reserve University.

Tubbs Jones was set to be a superdelegate at next week's Democratic National Convention in Denver.

She was one of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's biggest supporters during the primaries. She threw her support to Sen. Barack Obama in June.

His office released the following statement:

"Michelle and I are saddened to hear today's news about Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones. She is a passionate and tireless advocate for the people of Cleveland and a devoted public servant for all Americans. We send our heartfelt prayers to Stephanie and her family at this very difficult time."

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