

CAMBRIDGE VETERANS ORGANIZATION

POST OFFICE BOX # 463

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

HONORABLE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

On behalf of the Cambridge Veterans Organization, representing all the veteran groups and the Gold Star Mothers in the City of Cambridge, I would like to reply to certain statements and allegations made in the press of last week.

It is true that none of the veteran organizations were consulted or invited to participate in the Patriots Day Exercises by Mayor Ackermann.

Although it has been the custom of previous mayors to invite a member of a veterans' group to preside as master of ceremonies, this was not done nor the notification of change even mentioned.

At no instance, despite repeated attempts by Pasquale L. Reale, Veterans' Services Director, to elicit the nature or composition of her proposed program, would such information be released by her office.

This was the first time in history that a city or town encompassing the area of the historic rides deliberately and with obvious intent, snubbed and excluded veterans. Her non-appearance at last year's exercises was noted as well as at other dedication ceremonies for fallen Vietnam veterans who surely are the present day patriots.

Her whole approach to this most venerable and patriotic day was most inappropriate and unworthy of an elected public official regardless of political philosophy. A minority view should never rob the majority of its right to honor the patriots of this and other wars.

For the record, as far as can be determined, there are no plans for the Bi-Centennial Celebration to be held in Cambridge in 1975 made by her office and if the events on the Cambridge Common are any criteria, the citizens of this city should expect that the planned celebration be taken away from her office and be placed in the hands of those who are interested in insuring its success.

Very truly yours,

JOHN MORAN

Public Relations

Cambridge Veterans' Organization

Copy: Cambridge Chronicle
Boston Record-American

Communication from John Moran, Public Re-
lations, Cambridge Veterans' Organization,
relative to non-participation of veteran
organizations in Patriots Day Exercises

April 24, 1972

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