



City of Cambridge

68.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 1998

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: On Sunday, March 15, 1998 the **Somerville Cambridge Ladies Council of the Civic League of Massachusetts** will host **Peter Francisco Day** at the Holiday Inn in Somerville to honor this valiant Portuguese American hero of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS: The story of Peter Francisco, who was abandoned at the age of six at the Wharf at City Point, now Hopewell, Virginia, speaking only Portuguese, and who grew up to become a courageous soldier and patriot honored by general Lafayette and General Nathaniel Green, is an exciting story of hope, courage and valor that holds a lesson for us all; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all citizens to be cognizant of this worthwhile event; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to forward to the **Somerville Cambridge Ladies Council of the Civic League of Massachusetts**.

In City Council March 2, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

TT

68

at the Holiday Inn in Somerville

Whereas: On Sunday March 15, 1998 the Somerville Centages Ladies Guild of the Civil League of Massachusetts will host Peter Francisco, ^{Day} to honor this valiant Portuguese American hero of the American Revolution; and

Whereas: The story of Peter Francisco, ^{who was} abandoned ^{the night} ^{5th} at the wharf of Hopewell, ~~the~~ at City Point, now Hopewell, Virginia, speaking only Portuguese, and who grew ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~growing~~ up to become a courageous soldier ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~fight~~ patriot killed by General Lafayette and General Nathaniel Green, is an ~~inspiration~~ ^{evoking} a story of hope, courage and valor that holds a lesson for us all; no therefore be it

Resolved: That the C.C. go to record urging all citizens to be cognizant of this worthwhile event, ~~and be at and expressing its best wishes to the Somerville Centages and be it~~ further

Resolved: That the C.C. ~~be it~~ prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to forward to

*Portuguese-American Civic League
of
Massachusetts*

TT

February 9, 1998

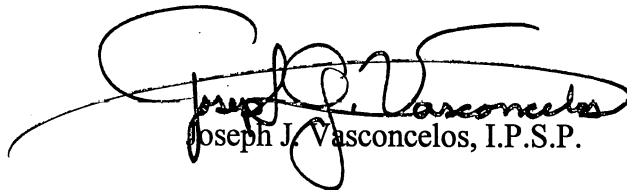
Mr. Tim Toomey, Jr.
State Representative
88 Sixth Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

Dear Tim,

On Sunday, March 15, 1998, the Somerville Cambridge Ladies Council of the Portuguese-American Civic League of Massachusetts will be host Peter Francisco Day. The function will be held at the Holiday Inn in Somerville.

I have enclosed a ticket and ten fund-raiser tickets for Peter Francisco Day. If you are not able to attend you may forward the tickets to my address below. We hope to have the pleasure of your presence at the above gathering.

Sincerely,


Joseph J. Vasconcelos, I.P.S.P.

30 1/2 Auburn Street
Woburn, Mass. 01801



Peter Francisco in 1928

PETER FRANCISCO

In 1765 Peter Francisco, at the age of five, was left upon the wharf at City Point, now Hopewell, Virginia, friendless and alone. The ship which brought him to America immediately set sail and was never heard of again. Sailors and dock hands found that Peter understood a few words of English and could only speak Portuguese. The boy knew his name was Petro (Peter) Francisco, that he had been separated from his parents, and that the men on the ship had left him on the wharf. In the fall of 1776, at sixteen years of age, Francisco joined the Tenth Virginia Regiment of continental troops. He was 6'6" tall and weighed 260 pounds, with black eyes and black hair, and was exceeding muscular and strong. He first saw action on September 11, 1777 at Brandywine, Pennsylvania. It was here at Sandy Hollow that Francisco met for the first time General Lafayette. Both men were wounded in this battle and became good friends during their convalescence. This friendship was to endure the rest of their lives. In 1824, long after the Revolution, when Lafayette visited America, Francisco accompanied the Marquis on his triumphant tour through Virginia. On March 15, 1781, the American and British collided in one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolution. This was at Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina. On this day, it was reported by Benson J. Lossing, the historian and early

authority on the Revolution, how Peter Francisco slew eleven British soldiers before he himself was critically wounded. Finally a British guardsman pinned Francisco's leg to his horse with a bayonet. The steel entered his leg just above the knee, sliced deep almost to the bone and ripped upward. Nearly unhorsed by the shock, doubled with pain, Francisco wheeled out of action clung to his mount in desperation, and then, losing consciousness, tumbled from the saddle and collapsed on the battleground. He was left for dead but was discovered by a Quaker, given aid, and recovered. General Nathanael Green expressed his admiration by having a handsome razor case especially made for him on which was inscribed: "Peter Francisco, New Store, Buckingham County, Va. A tribute to his moral worth and valor. From his comrade in Arms Nathanael Green." The razor case still exists, preserved in a room with other mementos in the museum at the National Military Park, Greensboro, North Carolina. General Nathanael Green was a resident of the state of Rhode Island and Providence plantations. His portrait hangs in the waiting room of the Governor's office at the Rhode Island State Capital, Providence, Rhode Island. During the last six years of his life, Peter Francisco served as sergeant-at-arms of the Virginia House of Delegates. On December 16, 1831, Peter Francisco died in Richmond. The House adjourned in respect and joined the Senate, the governor and City Council in attending the funeral. The Virginia legislature prepared a resolution of regret. The services were conducted in the hall of the House of Delegates by Bishop Channing Moore, and Francisco was buried with honors in Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

Edmund Dinis

MEDAL: Made of silver, gold and enamel. A Cross of Christ, 8cm with a star of five points and shield (of Portugal) with five white spots, placed vertically over the cross. From the lower left section of the cross attaches a band that goes under the star and attaches to the lower right side of the cross. On the band are engraved the words "TALENT DE BIEN FAIRE" the motto of Prince Henry "The Navigator". The cross is suspended by two chains attached to





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WHEREAS: The story of Peter Francisco, who was abandoned at the age of six at the Wharf at City Point, now Hopewell, Virginia, speaking only Portuguese, and who grew up to become a courageous soldier and patriot honored by general Lafayette and General Nathaniel Green, is an exciting story of hope, courage and valor that holds a lesson for us all; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all citizens to be cognizant of this worthwhile event; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to forward to the Somerville Cambridge Ladies Council of the Civic League of Massachusetts.

Councillor Toomey re: urge citizenry to be cognizant of and participate in the Somerville Cambridge Ladies Council of the Civic League of Massachusetts who will host Peter Francisco Day to honor this valiant Portuguese American hero of the American Revolution.

In City Council March 2, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED