



City of Cambridge

O-2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 24, 2003

COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This day the City Council commemorates Douglas and Helen Risser; and

WHEREAS: Helen was born on October 23, 1909 in Randolph, Massachusetts, the oldest of five children, all girls; and

WHEREAS: Douglas was born on November 21, 1907 in Nova Scotia, the oldest of nine children; when Douglas was about five, the family moved to the United States and settled in North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Douglas and Helen were married on September 18, 1929; after their marriage they lived for a short time on Brookford Street and Jackson Street, before moving to 74 Clay Street and then to 85 Clay Street, where they lived for most of the 69 years, 11 months of their life together; and

WHEREAS: Douglas's mother died shortly after the birth of his youngest sister in 1928 when Douglas was 21; as Douglas was the oldest child, Helen and Doug devoted much of the early years of their marriage to helping out with the younger siblings; and

WHEREAS: Although Douglas and Helen did not have biological children of their own, they devoted their lives to helping raise and care for other young family members on both sides of the family, all of whom were treated by "Auntie" and "Unk" as if they were their own children; and

WHEREAS: Douglas served his country in the United States Army in Germany and France during World War II; and

WHEREAS: Douglas worked in the shipping department of Dewey and Almy (W.R. Grace) in North Cambridge for 50 years until his retirement in 1972; and

WHEREAS: Douglas was an avid reader and gardener. He spent many hours in his yard working on his beautiful flowers. Passers-by always stopped to admire them, especially his rose bushes; and

WHEREAS: Helen worked in the home; she was an excellent cook and baker; for all of her extended family of nieces, nephews and their friends, there was always home-baked pastry for after school snacks, a great meal and something wonderful for dessert. Helen loved to sing and to read; and

WHEREAS: Helen passed away on August 15, 1998 at the age of 88, just one month before their 70th wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS: Douglas passed away just six months later on January 11, 1999 at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS: Helen and Douglas Risser were generous, loving and hard-working; their love and generosity was a blessing to their family, their neighbors and their community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record dedicating the corner of Dudley Street and Clay Street as

Helen and Douglas Risser Square

and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation at the Dedication Ceremony on October 4, 2003.

In City Council March 24, 2003.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Council dedicate the corner of Clay and Dudley Streets for Helen and Douglas Risser; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Assistant to the City Council be directed to confer with the family regarding a suitable dedication ceremony and communicate with the Department of Public Works to arrange for the sign.

In City Council March 24, 2003.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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ORDER # 2

That the City Council dedicate the
corner of Clay and Dudley Streets
for Helen and Douglas Risser.
Councillor Galluccio

ORDER ADOPTED.

In City Council March 24, 2003