



City of Cambridge

51.

IN CITY COUNCIL
November 23, 1998

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

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of former President of the National Teamsters Union, William J. McCarthy on November 19, 1998; and
- WHEREAS: William was born in Boston and at the age of seventeen became a member of the Teamsters Union where he drove a truck from Boston to New York and was paid \$20.00; and
- WHEREAS: In 1946 William became the business Agent for Local 25; and
- WHEREAS: In 1955 William became President of Local 25, he was named Vice President of the National Teamsters Union in 1969; and
- WHEREAS: William was a United States Army Veteran of World War II; and
- WHEREAS: William's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Mary; his daughters Rosemary Treacy and Ann Prendergast; his sons Lawrence and Thomas C. Pope; his brother John and eleven grandchildren: and
- WHEREAS: William will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of William J. McCarthy at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the McCarthy family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council November 23, 1998.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

William J. McCarthy, 79; headed Boston Teamsters for 35 years

By Tom Long
GLOBE STAFF

William J. McCarthy of Arlington, the rough and tumble former president of the National Teamsters union and leader of the union's Boston local for more than 30 years, died yesterday in Symmes Hospital in Arlington. He was 79.

Mr. McCarthy was born in Boston and served in the Army during World War II.

According to James Neff, author of "Mobbed Up: Jackie Presser's High-Wire Life in the Teamsters, the Mafia, and the FBI," Mr. McCarthy's affinity for the Teamsters began at an early age.

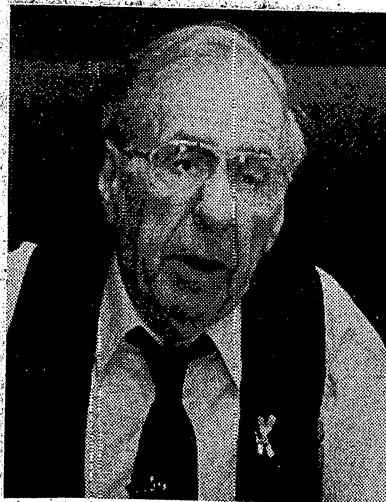
In the August 1991 issue of Boston magazine, Neff wrote that at age 15, Mr. McCarthy stole a car and was pursued by the Boston police as he drove through his neighborhood in Charlestown. The chase ended when Mr. McCarthy ditched the car near the Charlestown headquarters of Teamsters Local 25. Mr. McCarthy then jumped into the cab of a tractor-trailer and hid on the floor. When the driver of the rig returned, Mr. McCarthy talked him into helping him make good his escape by taking him along on his run to New York City.

The young Mr. McCarthy befriended the driver and later helped him wash and maintain his rig on Sundays. It was the beginning of a relationship with the Teamsters that lasted for more than 40 years.

According to Neff, Mr. McCarthy became a Teamster at the age of 17, when he forged a blank baptismal certificate he stole from a local church so that he could acquire a chauffeur's license.

He drove for Benjamin Motor Express, making the Boston to New York run with an overnight layover three times a week, and was paid \$16 for each run, plus \$4 in expense money.

In 1946, after 10 years of driving, he became business agent for Local 25.



WILLIAM J. MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy's boisterous and rough manner stood him in good stead as he quickly rose through the union ranks.

In 1955, he took over as president of the 7,000-member Local 25. He was named a vice president of the national Teamsters Union in 1969.

He was general president of the national union for one term, from 1988 to 1991, and declined to run when the union had its first rank-and-file election, a federally supervised election in which many reform candidates won.

The same year he lost election as president of Boston's Local 25, the post he had held for 35 years.

Though he once boasted, "the only way I'll leave this local is if they carry me out in a box," he was beaten at the ballot box by reform candidate George W. Cashman, ending his 35-year tenure as the leader of New England's largest Teamsters' union.

In 1992, citing failing health, he also stepped down as the leader of the union's Joint Council 10, through which he controlled 40 local unions throughout New England, nearly 40,000 Teamsters, for two decades.

Though his salary as president of the Teamsters Union would have afforded him many luxuries, he still lived in the brick house in Arlington he bought for \$27,000 in the late '60s.

He leaves his wife, Mary (Joyce); two daughters, Rosemary Treacy and Anne Prendergast, both of Sudbury; two sons, Lawrence Pope of Sudbury and Thomas C. Pope of Marlborough; a brother, John, of Chelsea; and 11 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday in St. Jerome's Church in Arlington.

Councillor Sullivan

Vmc

Kt

(54)

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William J McCarthy on Nov. 19, 1998; and

Former
Pres President
of the National
Teamsters
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eleven grand children

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copy of this resolution to the McCarthy family on behalf of the
entire City Council.

VU8

11/23/98 8:29-0

MS-

Wm McConthy

✓✓ Fleetside Paper

Alice Casey ✓

Peter Ravanis ✓

Julie Heooney - 75th 12/5/98 ✓

SR

MD

TT

Michael Anthony Sullivan

— to the world on 11/20/98



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A true copy;

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Consent Order #51

1296R

Councillor Sullivan, Vice Mayor Galluccio,
Councillor Triantafillou and entire
membership re: resolution on the death
of William J. McCarthy.

In City Council November 23, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED