



City of Cambridge

O-28.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 24, 2001

MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: At the age of fifteen, Natalina “Nellie” Sabatino emigrated from Calabria, Italy in 1912, arriving in America with her parents, Raphael Sabatino and her second mother, Maria Teresa Sabatino, along with her sister and seven brothers; and
- WHEREAS: Settling at 104 Cushing Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Nellie’s parents had three more daughters and two more sons, for a total of fourteen in the Sabatino family; and
- WHEREAS: In 1913, Vito Citino, Sr. bid farewell to his native Calabria, Italy at the age of twenty-one, reuniting in Watertown, Massachusetts with his brother, Nicola, who sponsored him to come to America; and
- WHEREAS: Vito married his beloved wife Nellie at the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown on December 17, 1916 and the newly joined couple established their home in the Mount Auburn neighborhood of Cambridge where their family’s roots continue to run deep; and
- WHEREAS: As one of six children, Vito shared Nellie’s love of family and from their union came twelve children to whom they instilled the values of hard work, compassion, friendship and an unwavering respect for all people regardless of one’s race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs; and
- WHEREAS: Vito and Nellie briefly relocated their family to Sudbury where Vito purchased two farms that, despite the long hours and sweat he invested in the land, shortly joined the many farms and businesses around the country that became casualties of The Great Depression; and
- WHEREAS: Returning to the solidarity and familiarity of the largely Italian-American working class Mount Auburn neighborhood, Vito and Nellie gradually worked their way to buying back the original home they first purchased, which is still the family home at 27 Saint Sauveur Court; and

- WHEREAS: Vito used his skills and agricultural experience in his work at several local farms including Mixes' Farm in Cambridge and Hittinger's Farm in Belmont where he worked for two generations of owners. As a foreman, Vito was known for working alongside the laborers and is remembered fondly by workers for treating them with empathy and respect; and
- WHEREAS: Vito also maintained several vegetable gardens in his neighborhood and, because not everyone could afford fresh vegetables, he shared his yield with relatives and neighbors; and
- WHEREAS: Nellie also cared deeply about the well-being of her neighborhood, assisting in a number of home births and, with the help of her six daughters, prepared extra food that would be delivered to sick and elderly neighbors. When temperatures dipped during the winter months, Vito and Nellie always made sure that the police officers who patrolled their neighborhood were kept warm with a hot cup of coffee and home made food; and
- WHEREAS: In a true testament to friendship that occurred before "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" became a household phrase, Vito and Nellie took in a family of girls whose father had died and whose mother was terminally ill despite their own large family and modest income; and
- WHEREAS: Vito lived in Cambridge for sixty-five years until his death in 1980, and his dearly loved wife Nellie resided here for sixty-nine years before passing in 1984; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Council go on record dedicating a square at an appropriate location in the vicinity of Saint Saveur Court in honor of Natalina and Vito Citino, Sr.; and be it further
- ORDERED: That a suitable dedication be arranged after consultation with the Citino family.

In City Council September 24, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

WHEREAS: Vito also maintained several vegetable gardens in his neighborhood and, because not everyone could afford fresh vegetables, he shared his yield with relatives and neighbors; and

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Order #28

117H

Dedicate a suitable location in the vicinity of St. Saveur Court in honor of Natalina and Vito Citino, Sr.

In City Council September 24, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED