



City of Cambridge

R-1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 13, 1999

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

- WHEREAS:** This day the City Council honors Adrienne Miller who is retiring from her 45-year career as dance teacher after having taught scores of Cambridge children to dance; and
- WHEREAS:** Adrienne was born and raised in Cambridge; she knew that she wanted to be a dance teacher at the age of four when she started dancing lessons; and
- WHEREAS:** Adrienne began her career at the age of 16 when she opened a small dance studio on the corner of Pearl Street and Putnam Avenue; and
- WHEREAS:** Soon after Adrienne opened her Pearl Street studio, she had twenty students whose names she can still remember; and
- WHEREAS:** Adrienne's husband passed away when her only child Patrice was eight years old; through Adrienne's successful business she was able to provide for her daughter and herself; and
- WHEREAS:** Throughout her career, Adrienne has taught more than 15,000 students the art of tap, jazz, ballet, ballroom dance and more; and
- WHEREAS:** Adrienne has enriched the lives of generations of Cambridge children; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** That this City Council hereby dedicates the corner of Pearl Street and Putnam Avenue as **Adrienne Miller Corner**; 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 to Adrienne Miller at the dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 4, 2000 on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 13, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

12-13-99

TT

W/A This day the City Council honors Adrienne Miller who is retiring from her 45-year career as a dance teacher, ~~then~~ after having taught scores of Cambridge children to dance; and

W/A ~~whereas~~ Adrienne ~~[began her dance career]~~ ~~[then]~~ was born and raised in Cambridge; ^{she} knew that she wanted to be a dance teacher at the age of four, ^{when she started dancing lessons; and} ~~Adrienne~~ ^{W/A} began her career at the age of 16 when she opened a small dance studio on the corner of Pearl Street; and

W/A ~~whereas~~ Soon after Adrienne opened her Pearl Street studio, she had twenty students whose names she can still remember; ~~later she had as many as 300 students at one time; and~~

W/A After Adrienne's husband passed away, ~~then~~ Adrienne supported ~~he~~ when her only child Patrick was eight years old, Adrienne's ~~supported herself and~~ Patrick business was enabled her to provide for her daughter and herself; and

W/A ~~Adrienne~~ moved to Arlington and moved her dance studio to ~~Waverly~~ Street in Arlington

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W/A ~~Adm~~ Throughout her career, Adrienne
has taught more than 15,000 students the
art of tap, jazz, ballet, ballroom dance
and more; and

W/A Adrienne has enriched the lives of generations of
Cambridge children; now therefore be it

R That the C. C. hereby dedicates the corner
of Pearl Street and Putnam Avenue as
Adrienne Miller Corner;
and be it further

R See

checked Sunday June 4

The day the dancing stopped

Instructor Adrienne Miller steps away from footlights after 45 years

BY KAREN LACAIRE BOUVIER
CORRESPONDENT

A lot of Adrienne Miller Darveris's former students describe her not only as a patient and talented dance instructor but also as a second mother. And since the retiring dance teacher has taught more than 15,000 students the art of tap, jazz, ballet, ballroom dance and more, one could say Miller has a pretty large extended family.

Miller, a 30-year Arlington resident, hung up her dancing shoes

for the last time after a farewell celebration last Saturday at the Sons Of Italy on Prentice Street. The party, hosted by Miller's daughter Patrice, drew a throng of people wishing to pay tribute to the veteran, revered dance instructor.

Many will remember Miller and her students' annual recitals, oftentimes sold out performances at John Hancock in Boston. Miller, 62, began her 45-year teaching career at age 16 when she opened a small dance studio in her native Cambridge on the corner of Pearl

Street. She paid just \$40 dollars per month to rent the space and soon had 20 loyal students whose names she says she can still remember. Later, on Warren Street in Arlington, she recalls having as many as 300 students at one time, "and paying much higher rent, of course," she added with a laugh.

She taught children as young as 2-years-old, and even taught one little girl with Downs Syndrome to dance well enough to be in recitals.

"I knew I wanted to teach dancing to others from the first time I put dancing shoes on myself," Miller said. "And I never changed my mind."

So, unlike most of us, Miller knew what she was going to do for a living at the age of four. That's when her mother put her in dance school.

"My mother snuck me to dance lessons," Miller reminisces. "My stern father, who was

from Greece, wasn't going to have his daughter dancing."

Still, Miller's mother, also of Greek descent, had always wanted to take dance lessons as a child growing up in Lowell. But in a family of 21 children, there simply wasn't enough money for dance lessons so Miller's mother decided to live vicariously through her daughter, despite Miller's father's aversion.

"Mom was my inspiration," Miller said of her mother, who died in 1990.

"She even picked my music out until the very end."

Miller says her father, who passed away in 1974, became more supportive over the years.

"Once he came to a recital," Miller recalled, "and he was out there in the audience pointing at me on the stage and telling everyone, 'that's my girl!'"

Miller says her husband, Spiros, was also an avid supporter, until he died suddenly of a brain aneurysm on the couple's 10th wedding anniversary.

"That was the toughest time to keep going," Miller said. "But I knew I had my daughter to raise and I wasn't going to let her

'I knew I wanted to teach dancing to others from the first time I put dancing shoes on myself. And I never changed my mind.'

ADRIENNE MILLER

Images old and new: left, Miller in earlier days, right, with daughter

down."

Patrice, 31, is Miller's only child, and she was just eight when her father passed away.

"My daughter became an inspiration much like my mother had been," Miller said. "We had to do it together."

Miller says she has always taught more for the reward of sharing her passion than for a paycheck, and so although she continued to teach full time, she also opened Patrice's Children's Shop, an outlet for kid's clothing and toys on Mass Avenue, which helped her pay the bills. She ran the store for 20 years, closing it just eight years ago, only after Patrice was grown.

Miller says her daughter never really took a serious interest in dancing.

"But," adds Miller, "Even though Patrice was adopted and we can't say it's in the genes, my granddaughter, Larissa, has a lot of rhythm already."

Larissa, the first child for Patrice and her husband, recently turned one.

"I think she might be a dancer because perhaps her grandmother might have liked to dance," Miller said, not of herself but of Larissa's biological grandmother and Patrice's biological mother, whom the family recently met for the first time.

"When Patrice was pregnant with Larissa, she wanted to know her medical history," Miller said. "We've all gotten much more than that out of knowing her original mom."

Miller says Patrice's biological mother presented her with flowers at their first 1998 meeting "for raising her daughter," she said. "And she's also going to come to my party (last Saturday)."

Miller clearly revels in surrounding herself with family and the many friends and former students she calls "extended family." Although she says she loses touch here and there with many of her 15,000 former students, she says many of them call out of the blue, "just to see how I'm doing and to tell me what they're up to," she said.

Though many former students no longer dance, at least two have followed in Miller's footsteps and have gone on to teach dance, and at least one is dancing professionally, in New York City.

"I've had several former students call recently that have actually cried over me retiring," Miller said. "I will always cherish every minute of my career teaching and I have cried over retiring too. But it had to come some time, and I want to enjoy my family and friends now."

Miller plans to spend a lot of time with her daughter and granddaughter, and she wants to do some traveling as well. She has at least one trip planned — to Puerto Rico for a month in January. She'll be taking her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter with her. And she hopes to return to her father's homeland in Greece soon, where she hasn't visited since 1965.

2000



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COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record dedicating the corner of Pearl Street and Putnam Avenue in honor of dance teacher Adrienne Miller, who is retiring after forty-five years of teaching; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a dedication ceremony be arranged by the Assistant to the City Council after consultation with the family.

In City Council December 13, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "M".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

December 13th

R-1

1999 DEC -7 P 3:24

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

C. Toomey

C. Sullivan

Name the corner of Pearl St.
and Putnam Ave. in honor of
Dance Teacher

Adrienne Miller who is retiring
after 45 years of teaching, and will
further

Resolved

~~That~~ That a suitable dedication
ceremony be held after consultation
w/ asst rec?

Adrienne Miller

781-289-3609

56 Lincoln Street

Revere, MA 02151

MC



City of Cambridge

R-1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 13, 1999

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record dedicating the corner of Pearl Street and Putnam Avenue in honor of dance teacher Adrienne Miller, who is retiring after many years of teaching; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a dedication ceremony be arranged by the Assistant to the City Council after consultation with the family.

Resolution #1 156 H

Councillors Toomey and Sullivan re:
dedicate the corner of Pearl Street
and Putnam Avenue in honor of dance
teacher Adrienne Miller.

In City Council December 13, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED