



City of Cambridge

R-35.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 16, 2000

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

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Ethel (White) Sheehan on October 5, 2000; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel was an activist for social justice once described by Representative Barney Frank as having been involved "in every fight for social justice over the last forty to fifty years"; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel was vice president of the Newton Community Development Foundation, a housing initiative and was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Newton Democratic City Committee; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel was a Newton alderwoman from 1976 to 1983; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel traced her political activism back to her opposition to the Vietnam War in 1968 or 1969 when she disagreed with those blaming young people for the unrest caused by their opposition to the war; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her daughters Liane Cadman and Pamela Marocco; her son Henry Sheehan, Jr. and her five grandchildren; and
- WHEREAS: Ethel will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Ethel Sheehan 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 Sheehan family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 16, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

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

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

M75

R-35

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

Ethel (White) Sheehan on October 5, 2000
and at the age of 77

WHEREAS: Ethel Sheehan was an activist for social justice once described by Representative Barney Frank as having been involved "in every fight for social justice over the last 40 or 50 years"

WHEREAS: Ethel was vice president of the Newton Community Development Foundation, a housing initiative and was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Newton Democratic City Committee; and

WHEREAS: Ethel was a Newton alderwoman from 1976 to 1983; and

u/A Ethel traced her political activism back to her opposition to the Viet Nam War in 1968 or 1969 when she disagreed with those blaming young people for the unrest caused by their opposition to the war

WHEREAS: Ethel Sheehan's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of her surviving friends and

family, daughters Liane Cadman and

Pamela Marocco, her son Henry

Sheehan, Jr. and her five

grand children

; and

WHEREAS: Ethel will be sorely missed by all he/she touched and loved; now therefore be it

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

Obituaries

Ethel Sheehan, activist for social justice; at 77

By Tom Long

GLOBE STAFF

Ethel (White) Sheehan, a community activist once described as being involved in "every fight for social justice over the last 40 or 50 years," died yesterday in her home in Newton. She was 77.

Mrs. Sheehan was vice president of the Newton Community Development Foundation, a housing initiative and was a member of the League of Women Voters and the Newton Democratic City Committee.

She was a Newton alderwoman from 1976 to 1983.

In a story published in the Globe on Nov. 6, 1994, she remembered getting involved in the US House race in 1970 that pitted the Rev. Robert Drinan in an independent challenge against Democratic incumbent Phillip Philbin. Father Drinan won the race and became the first Catholic priest to hold such a high political office.

"That one really got all the Irish ladies out," said Mrs. Sheehan. "We baked more cookies and made more pots of coffee. Come to think of it, we still do that. And we still wash the dishes."

She traced her political activism back to the Vietnam War.

"It was 1968 or 1969, and I kept hearing that people were blaming the kids for the Vietnam War," she said. "I remember standing in my kitchen and thinking, 'Well, I'm not a kid and I'm against the war.' And I felt I had to go to my first demonstration."

She recalled going down to the John F. Kennedy federal building in Government Center in Boston and joining a group of antiwar activists who warned her to be careful of the attack dogs as police walked through the crowd.

"I was so naive, when they said be careful of the dogs, I'm thinking doggie do," she said. "What I should have been thinking of was doggie bite."

She said she emerged more politically sophisticated and turned her attention to local housing is-



FILE PHOTO

ETHEL SHEEHAN

At a tribute in Newton in May, US Representative Barney Frank said: "Ethel is what citizens ought to be in a democracy. She has been involved in every fight for social justice over the last 40 or 50 years. She has disproved the myth that once you get involved in the political process your ideals go."

She leaves two daughters, Liane Cadman and Pamela Marrocco, both of Newton; a son, Henry Jr. of Los Angeles; and five grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. tomorrow in Sacred Heart Church in Newton. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Needham.

MS

7400 10/6@

Isabel Sylvester

✓ Gerard McCort

MS Ethel Ethel Shanklin C Globe



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R 1239

Resolution #35

Resolution on the death of Ethel
Sheehan

**Councillor Sullivan and entire
membership**

In City Council October 16, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED