



City of Cambridge

93.

IN CITY COUNCIL
June 1, 1998

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

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of John "The Cobbler" Gimigliano on May 28, 1998 at the age of ninety-six; and
- WHEREAS: John was an honorary member of the U.A.V. Post #30 and was a special participant at many Cambridge City Council Inaugurations; and
- WHEREAS: John was a United States Army Veteran of World War II; and
- WHEREAS: John was a cobbler in North Cambridge for sixty years; and
- WHEREAS: A downtown square in North Cambridge was dedicated in his honor; and
- WHEREAS: John was well known to generations of Cambridge residents for his shoe making, his poetry and his generosity of spirit; and
- WHEREAS: John's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Edith; his niece and nephew and their spouses Mary and George Geer and Domenic and Jacqueline Paparo; and
- WHEREAS: John 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 John Gimigliano 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 Gimigliano family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 1, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

Councillor Russell
Councillor Sullivan
Vice Mayor Galluccio
Councillor Jorney
Councillor Treadafellow AM

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participant at many City of Cambridge City
Council Inaugurations; and
; and

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War II;

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his generosity of spirit

6/1/98

10:35 θ

AG to John the
Cabbler

GIMIGLIANO—in Somerville May 28. John
"The Cobbler" beloved husband of Edith
(Parell). Loving uncle of Mary &
George Geer of Somerville, Do-
menic & Jacqueline Paparo of
North Reading. Also survived by
other nieces and nephews. Funer-
al Mass in St. John's Church, 2254 Mass
Ave., North Cambridge on Sat. at 9 a.m. Rel-
atives and friends invited. Honorary member
U.A.V. Post 30, Veteran WWII Army. Cobbler
in North Cambridge for 60 years. In lieu of
flowers donations may be sent to St.
John's Church. Arrangements by Keefe Fu-
neral Home, CAMBRIDGE.



May 29

C. Russell

12:10

C. Sullivan

Vice Mayor Gallucci

TT.

kt.

all Death Res on

John the Cobbler

M Russell 8:10
John

Gimigliano

Death

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89.000

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mc

St. Y. I. Sheela

RECEIVED BY
98 MAY
JOHN THE COBBLER
GIMIGLIANO SQ
CAMBRIDGE MA

SIGNS OF RESPECT

LOCAL HERO

In Cambridge, Mass., it's not just Harvard that has its own square

THE ROMANS NAMED ONE AFTER St. Peter. New Yorkers did the same for James Madison. But it takes a town with real soul to name a public square after, say, a shoe repairman.

Cambridge, Mass., is such a place. The city of 100,000 across the Charles River from Boston has launched many a notable career from its world-renowned institutions, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But Cantabrigians bestow their laurels on humbler lives. Nearly 100 streets, corners, lanes—even trees—are dedicated to the likes of Violet "Vie" Moore, an elementary school crossing guard, and Elmer J. "Mac" McLeod, who for years worked in the city auditing department. "Cambridge is changing so fast," says Mayor Sheila Russell, 60, of her once blue-collar (if student-ridden) town. Honoring local characters is a way of "keeping a hold on the old days."

From Frank Cardullo Square (actually an intersection, named for a grocer) to Dorothy "Dottie" Doyle Way (where a signpost honors a "devoted wife, mother, grandmother [and] public employee"), the city marks its past. Indeed, there are so many street-sign tributes to the common men and women of Cambridge—30 street corners were renamed in 1997 alone—that "they are going to run out of corners," warned Robert Simard of the Public Works Department.

If so, they are corners well spent, according to John "The Cobbler" Gimigliano, 96, whose name has graced a downtown square since 1987. An Italian immigrant who opened his shop in 1926 and retired three years ago, Gimigliano has catered to Cambridge mayors, two congressmen and a Harvard undergrad named John F. Kennedy. "I did so much good for the city," he told the *Boston Globe*. "They did that for me." Fair enough. ■



A "I owe my love to Cambridge," says John Gimigliano (at his namesake square).



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Consent Order #93

736R

Councillors Russell, Sullivan, Vice Mayor
Galluccio, Councillors Toomey, Triantafillou
and entire membership re: resolution on
the death of John "The Cobbler" Gimigliano.

In City Council June 1, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED