

The Somerville Journal
6/2/94

Andrew Capuano Sr.
Former alderman, war hero



Andrew Capuano Sr.

Andrew Capuano Sr., Somerville's first major Italian-American politician, who paved the way for his son's elevation to the city's highest office, died Saturday at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 79.
A decorated war veteran, popular public figure and affable family man, Andrew Capuano's greatest legacy may have been the sense of civic duty he instilled in his son, Mayor Michael Capuano.
"His strongest asset was that he liked people more than anyone I know," the mayor said this week. "He never said no to anyone. If people were in need, he would help them if he could."
Andrew Capuano was the son of a produce truck driver who had emigrated to the Boston area from Southern Italy, one of thousands pouring into the country in the early years of this century.

Capuano was born and lived his entire life in Somerville. He graduated from Somerville High School prior to joining the Navy before World War II.
An injury forced him out, but he rejoined the U.S. Army and was sent to the front lines of the European theater. He was wounded in battle in Germany, and spent the next two years hospitalized, but his heroes would eventually earn him the Purple Heart and Bronze Star awards.
After an honorable discharge as a captain, Capuano returned home to Somerville. In 1947, he decided to run for alderman against longtime incumbent John Carroll, following the lead of his brother, Sabie, who had gotten active in local politics.

It was an old Yankee town, a Republican town, Andrew Capuano recalled in a 1992 interview with the Journal.
He defeated Carroll, and sat as Somerville's alderman from 1948 to 1953. He served as the board of aldermen's president during that time. He is believed to be the first Italian-American elected to office in the city.

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When he ran, the campaign slogan was "Gaelic or garlic," Mayor Capuano said.
Andrew Capuano was also involved in running campaigns, including that of former Attorney General James Lawton and the congressional campaign of John Kennedy, according to his son.
Andrew Capuano was educated at Boston College, Bentley School of Accounting and Finance, and Boston School of Accounting. He was the retired chief of the Income Tax Bureau for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Capuano was a member of the George Dubois VFW Post, American Legion Post 388, DAV Post 27, Democratic Ward & City Committee, Board of Trustees for the Somerville Visiting Nurses Association, all of Somerville. He was also a member of the Woodland Country Club of Newton, the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Co. of Massachusetts, and the Somerville Club of New York. He was the husband of Rita (Carroll) and father of Andrew Jr. of Malden, Mayor Michael Capuano of Somerville, Pamela Veck of Framingham, Lisa Evans of Sudbury, and the late Karen Capuano of Somerville. He was the brother of Louis, Somerville, and the late Marie of Waltham. Helen Radaglia of Somerville, the wife of the brother of the late Karen Capuano of Somerville, was the brother of the late Karen Capuano of Somerville. He is believed to be the first Italian-American elected to office in the city.

Arrangements were by the Costa Funeral Home.

June 6, 1994

Councillor Toomey

Councillor Sullivan

whereas: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Andrew Capuano, Sr., Somerville's first major Italian-American politician on May 28, 1994; and

whereas: Andrew, was born and lived his entire life in Somerville, graduated from Somerville Hill School and joined the United States Navy before World War II; and

whereas: During his tour of duty in the military he was wounded in battle in Germany and was decorated with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star awards; and

whereas: In 1947, Andrew challenged longtime incumbent John Carroll for the Ward Five alderman seat and served from 1948 to 1953 and during that time he served as the Board of Aldermen's President; and

whereas: He ran ^{twice} unsuccessfully for Mayor of Somerville in 1953 and 1955 but passed

the road for his son Michael to
capture the Mayor's Chair in 1987; and

Whereas

Andrew was educated at Boston College,
Bentley School of Accounting & Finance
and Boston School of Accounting and
served as chief of the Income Tax
Bureau for the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, Department of Revenue;
and

Whereas

Andrew was a member of the George
Dillboy O'F'W Post American Legion Post
388 DAD Post 27 Democratic Ward &
City Committee, Board of Trustees for
the Somerville Visiting Nurses Association
and a member of the Ancient &
Honorable Artillery Company of
Massachusetts

WHEREAS: Andrew's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of
his/hersurviving family, his wife Rita, his children
Andrew Jr, Mayor Michael Capuano, Pamela
Veek and Lisa Evans, his siblings Sabie Helen
Rabaglia and Louise Schicariello and his
eldest grand children; and

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

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family
of Andrew Capuano, Sr. at this time of such personal loss; and be it
further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitable engrossed
copy of this resolution to the Capuano family on behalf of the entire
City Council.

June 6, 1994

Councillor Toomey
Councillor Sullivan

ORDERED : That the City Clerk be & hereby is requested
to prepare a suitable resolution on the Death
of Andrew Caputo, late father of Sonerville
Mayor Michael Caputo.



City of Cambridge

19.

IN CITY COUNCIL
June 6, 1994

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
MAYOR REEVES
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: That this City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Andrew Capuano, Sr., Somerville's first major Italian-American politician on May 28, 1994; and

WHEREAS: Andrew, was born and lived his entire life in Somerville, graduated from Somerville High School and joined the United States Navy before World War II; and

WHEREAS: During his tour of duty in the military he was wounded in battle in Germany and was decorated with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Awards; and

WHEREAS: In 1947, Andrew challenged long time incumbent John Carroll for the Ward Five Alderman seat and served from 1948 to 1953 and during that time he served as the Board of Alderman's President; and

WHEREAS: He twice ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Somerville in 1953 and 1955, but paved the road for his son, Michael, to capture the Mayor's Chair in 1987; and

WHEREAS: Andrew was educated at Boston College, Bentley School of Accounting and Finance and Boston School of Accounting and served as Chief of the Income Tax Bureau for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS: Andrew was a member of the George Dilboy VFW Post, American Legion Post 388, DAV Post 27 Democratic Ward and City Committee, Board of Trustees for the Somerville Visiting Nurses Association and a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; and

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WHEREAS: Andrew's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of his surviving family, his wife Rita; his children Andrew, Jr., Mayor Michael Capuano, Pamela Veek and Lisa Evans; his siblings Sabie, Helen Rabaglia and Louise Scmicariello and his eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Andrew 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 Andrew Capuano, Sr. at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

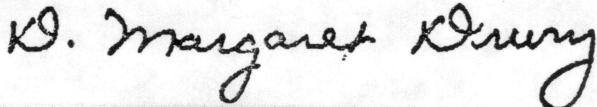
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Capuano family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 6, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:- 
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

19.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 6, 1994

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

- WHEREAS: That this City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Andrew Capuano, Sr., Somerville's first major Italian-American politician on May 28, 1994; and
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- WHEREAS: He twice ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Somerville in 1953 and 1955, but paved the road for his son, Michael, to capture the Mayor's Chair in 1987; and
- WHEREAS: Andrew was educated at Boston College, Bentley School of Accounting and Finance and Boston School of Accounting and served as Chief of the Income Tax Bureau for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue; and
- WHEREAS: Andrew was a member of the George Dilboy VFW Post, American Legion Post 388, DAV Post 27 Democratic Ward and City Committee, Board of Trustees for the Somerville Visiting Nurses Association and a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; and

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RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Capuano family on behalf of the entire City Council.

Reeve, Russell, Truant, fellow
Walsh

R-415

Cosentn Order #19

Sullivan

Councillor Toomey re: death resolution
on Andrew Cpuano.

In City Council June 6, 1994

Order adopted.