



City of Cambridge

75.

IN CITY COUNCIL
September 28, 1998

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

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of State Representative Anthony M. Scibelli on September 18, 1998 at the age of eighty-six; and
- WHEREAS: Representative Scibelli, a forty-eight year legislator, represented the 10th Hampden District; and
- WHEREAS: Anthony grew up in Springfield, was a trucking business entrepreneur, a real estate broker and was a City Councillor for twelve years in Springfield; and
- WHEREAS: Anthony was elected to the legislature in 1950 where he served on the House's Way and Means Committee and was a member of the Transportation Committee; and
- WHEREAS: Anthony enjoyed serving his constituents and helping people in his neighborhood, where he was instrumental in securing state money for development projects; and
- WHEREAS: Anthony's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his son Michael; and
- WHEREAS: Anthony 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 Anthony M. Scibelli 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 Scibelli family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 28, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Toomey
all

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Anthony M. Scibelli, 86; was among nation's longest-serving legislators

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD - State Representative Anthony M. Scibelli, one of the nation's longest-serving state lawmakers and a man who took pleasure in helping his constituents with their government problems, died yesterday. He was 86.

The 48-year legislator held his Springfield seat, representing the 10th Hampden District, up to his death at Baystate Medical Center. The hospital did not release a cause of death.

Mr. Scibelli easily defeated a challenger in the state's Democratic primaries on Tuesday, garnering 67 percent of the vote in his district, even though his office acknowledged that he was too ill to campaign or even vote.

Election officials said there is still time to remove Mr. Scibelli's name from the Nov. 3 election ballot and replace it with a nominee picked by a party caucus from that district.

There is no Republican candidate on the ballot in the 10th Hampden District.

Amiable and plain-spoken, the silver-haired lawmaker, who was the dean of House members, harkened back to a time when politics was simpler and more personal. An Italian barber's son, he once explained his political longevity by saying simply, "I like helping people."

"Tony Scibelli, rather than enjoy the power he had, truly enjoyed helping people, particularly neighborhood people who didn't have too many powerful friends," said state Representative Dennis Murphy, also a Springfield Democrat.

In recent years, he usually left the oratory to younger, more ideological colleagues. Instead, he concentrated on capturing state money for development projects in his district and helping constituents with their government problems.

In 1996, at 83, Mr. Scibelli surprised some when he announced his candidacy for another term. Standing in the Springfield City Council chamber where his career began in 1937, he said, "I've worked all my life to make Springfield a better place and to help my fellow man and there is more to do."

Mr. Scibelli grew up in Springfield's gritty, ethnic South End and went to Catholic school. At a sturdy 5 feet 5 inches, he was recruited to play football at Notre Dame but



1996 PHOTO

ANTHONY SCIBELLI

broke his ankle in a car accident and abandoned his plan for a college education.

Instead, he set off to travel the country with \$50 in his pocket. At one point, he was kicked out of Atlantic City, N.J., as a vagrant. But he later founded a trucking business and became a millionaire. He was also a real estate broker.

He first ran for office largely because he was upset that a trucking competitor, in his view, was gaining an unfair advantage with the city.

He served on Springfield's City Council for 12 years. He then won election as a state representative in 1950. He was trying to prevail in his 25th straight election.

Mr. Scibelli had said his wife, Lea, faulted him for wanting to be liked even by his enemies. But that likable manner and sympathy for ordinary people masked a flair and sophistication in cutting political deals and harnessing the machinery of state government for his favorite projects, such as creating Springfield Technical Community College.

He had continued serving on the House's Ways and Means Committee, which he once chaired. He was also a member of the Transportation Committee.

His son, Michael, is a Massachusetts environmental police officer.

Acting Governor Paul Cellucci has ordered that the State House flag be flown at half-staff in honor of Mr. Scibelli.

A funeral Mass will be said Tuesday in Mt. Carmel Church in Springfield, followed by burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Walter A. Griffin Sr., civic acti and former mayor of Lawrence

By Mark Brunelli
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Walter A. Griffin Sr., a former mayor of Lawrence, died Wednesday at the Prescott House in North Andover. He was 97.

Born in Lawrence, Mr. Griffin was a graduate of Lawrence High School. When he was 21, his father died and he dropped out of Villanova University to run his family's market.

He became involved in civic affairs, and served on Lawrence's Licensing Board before being elected mayor in 1938. He served four terms, leaving office in 1940.

During World War II, Mr. Griffin continued to run his family's market on Lawrence Street. In 1946, he was appointed clerk of courts of Lawrence District Court, a position he held for 25 years.

In the late 1960s, his last civic contribution was to serve on the commission to revamp the city charter.

Mr. Griffin received an honorary degree from Villanova University and a diploma of affiliation from the Marist Teaching Order for his service to the Men's League of Central



WALTER A. GRIFFIN SR.

Catholic of Lawrence. He was a member of the Elks, the K. K. Columbus, and the Ancient Hibernians.

He leaves two sons, Walter of Brevard, N.C., and Jay of Lawrence; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's in Lawrence. Burial will be in Mary's Cemetery.

Graham P. Teller, a noted figure in Boston arts community; at

By Mark Brunelli
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Graham Prescott Teller, a well-known figure in the Boston-area arts community, died Aug. 20 at Goddard Nursing Home in Jamaica Plain after a lengthy illness. He was 78.

Born in New York, Mr. Teller grew up in Jamaica Plain. After graduating from Roxbury Latin School in 1938, he studied art for the next three years.

In 1942, he enlisted in the Army and graduated from the Engineer Officer Candidate School in Fort Belvoir. He served at several bases in the United States and as a captain in the Engineer Corps in the Southwest Pacific. In 1945, he returned to the United States in General Douglas MacArthur's plane.

After receiving a degree in art education from Rhode Island School

of the Boston Ballet Society, served as a consultant to the Center for the Arts and was a member of the Bostonian Society and the Old State House Museum.

He retired in 1985 and for some time was a volunteer with the Action Committee and at hospice. More recently, he volunteered at Little Brothers, Elderly in Boston.

He leaves no survivors.

Mr. Teller donated his anatomical studies at Harvard Medical School and burial will be at a later date.

Thomas J. McDon

At 54; retired Boston fir

A funeral Mass will

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Consent Order #75

1067R
~~1050R~~

Councillor Toomey, Vice Mayor Galluccio
and entire membership re: resolution
on the detach of State Representative
Anthony M. Scibelli.

In City Council September 28, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED