



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • 617-498-9090

Leonard J. Russell

Mayor

PRESS RELEASE
JUNE 17, 1985

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
JOSEPH CONNARTON 498-9017

Leonard J. Russell, Mayor and longtime civic leader of the City of Cambridge died at the age of 52 in Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge from complications following recent surgery.

Russell, a five term elected member of the Cambridge City Council was admitted to Mount Auburn Hospital on June 6 for surgery to remove a tumor in his neck that had been the cause of a two year bout with cancer. Although the surgery was successful, on Wednesday morning at approximately 3:30 A.M. he suffered respiratory arrest and lapsed into a four day coma that led to his death on Sunday evening, June 16, at approximately 11 P.M.

Russell was first elected to the Cambridge City Council in November, 1973 and was reelected in 1975. After a disappointing defeat in 1977 he won again in 1979, 1981, and 1983. On January 30, 1984 Russell's City Council colleagues elected him Mayor, a two-year position that included serving as Chairman of the City Council and School Committee.

As Mayor, Russell counted among his important achievements stability in the Cambridge Schools following the controversial removal of the previous Superintendent and subsequent hiring of a new Superintendent to head the City's school system. Russell's leadership on the School Committee brought him praise from school administrators, teachers and parents throughout the diverse Cambridge School community.

Recently, Mayor Russell officiated at the reopening of a new bridge on Huron Avenue in West Cambridge, a neighborhood project he had worked on for more than five years. The Massachusetts Legislature and the Cambridge City Council are currently in the process of naming that bridge for Mayor Russell in recognition of his relentless efforts in seeing that bridge replaced.

Leonard J. Russell was born on August 22, 1932, the youngest of seven children of Henry B. and Rose F. (Wagner) Russell. He attended St. Peter's Grammar School and St. John's High School in Cambridge, and Boston College.

Upon graduation from high school he served a year with the Provost Marshalls Office of the U.S. Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He then followed in his father's footsteps, heading up the family trucking and containerized disposal business, H.B. Russell and Sons Disposal Company. In 1972, the company merged with Browning-Ferris Industries, for whom Russell worked as an account executive until his death.

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Russell leaves his wife Sheila T. (Doyle) and their five children, Leonard Jr., Eileen Struzziery, William, Nancy, and Mary Kate, and one granddaughter Alyse Struzziery. Russell was the brother of Joseph of Lexington, Henry of Burlington, Arthur of Waltham, Rosemary Delaney of Woburn and the late Frederick and Robert Russell.

Russell's community, business and personal affiliations were extensive. They included:

Board of Directors - U.S. Trust/Middlesex Bank
Board of Directors - Cambridge Chapter, Boy Scouts of America
Commissioner - Cambridge Babe Ruth Baseball League
Honorary Chairman - Cambridge Chapter of American Cancer Society
Past Commodore - Hull Yacht Club

Member One Hundred Club of Massachusetts
 St. Peter's Holy Name Society
 Cambridge Lodge of Elks #839
 Cambridge Knights of Columbus #269
 United American Veterans - Post #30 (Lynch Post)
 American Legion Post #442 (Marsh Post)
 Mt. Auburn VFW Post #8818

Sponsor West Cambridge Little League
 Cambridge Babe Ruth League and Senior Babe Ruth
 Leagues
 Cambridge Youth Hockey
 Men's and Women's Municipal Softball Teams

Funeral Arrangements will be made by William T. Hickey & Sons, Huron Avenue, in Cambridge. Visiting hours will be on Tuesday and Wednesday June 18th and 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Funeral Mass, Thursday, June 20th, 10:00 A.M., at St. John's Church, Massachusetts Avenue, North Cambridge. Interment will be at Cambridge Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to:

MAYOR LEONARD J. RUSSELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
P.O. Box 253
Cambridge, MA 02139

S- 477A

Re: press release dated June 17, 1985 regarding the death of Mayor Leonard J. Russell on Sunday evening, June 16, 1985 at approximately 11:00 p.m. at the age of 52.

June 17, 1985