



City of Cambridge

R-34.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 1999

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

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Pearl K. Wise on August 7, 1999 at the age of ninety-seven; and

WHEREAS: Pearl Wise was the first woman elected City Councillor under the Plan E Charter; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Wise served as a president of the Cambridge League of Women Voters from 1942-1945; and

WHEREAS: In 1945 she organized the Parents-Teachers Association at Cambridge High and Latin School and was its first president; and

WHEREAS: In 1948 Mrs. Wise led the successful statewide legislative campaign to allow women to sit on juries in the courts of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Pearl Wise was elected to the Cambridge School Committee in 1949, and served three terms, one as vice chair; and

WHEREAS: While on the School Committee Mrs. Wise was responsible for the establishment of a library in each Cambridge Public School and of a federally funded hot lunch program in the schools; and

WHEREAS: Pearl Wise served four years on the City Council, where she cast the deciding vote rejecting the proposal urban renewal project in East Cambridge which would have demolished more than 150 homes; and

WHEREAS: After retiring from the City Council in 1964, she was appointed to the board of Cambridge Housing Authority, on which she sat for years; and

WHEREAS: The library at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School is named in her honor; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Wise's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving friends and family, her daughters Rebekah W. Sachs and Abigail W. Simms; her sons David S. and Robert L. Wise; her nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Pearl Wise 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 Pearl K. Wise 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 Wise family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 13, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Pearl Wise, at 97

Cambridge's 1st female councilor

Pearl K. Wise of Manchester-by-the-Sea, formerly of Cambridge, where she was the first woman elected city councilor under a city manager form of government, died yesterday at the Oakwood Nursing Home in Manchester. She was 97.

Mrs. Wise, who was involved in public affairs, served as a president of the Cambridge League of Women Voters from 1942 to 1945. In 1945, she organized the Parents-Teachers Association at the Cambridge High & Latin School and was its first president. In 1948, she organized and led the successful statewide legislative campaign of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters to allow women to sit on juries in the courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

She was elected to the Cambridge School Committee in 1949, and she served three terms, one as vice chairman. Mrs. Wise was responsible for the establishment of a library in each Cambridge public school and of a federally funded hot lunch program in the schools. She led the first new construction project for public schools since 1931, when the Peabody, Morse, and Fitzgerald schools were built in the mid-1950s.

She served four years as a Cambridge city councilor where she cast, in the face of enormous pressure from the city, the deciding vote rejecting the proposed urban renewal project in East Cambridge, which would have razed more than 150 homes. After retiring from the City Council in 1964, she was appointed to the Cambridge Housing Authority, on which she sat for years.

The library at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School is named in her honor.

She leaves a daughter, Rebekah W. Sachs of San Francisco; two sons, David S., of Rockport, and Robert L., of Belmont; a daughter, Abigail W. Simons, of San Jose, Calif.; and nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MS
HD
RD
VMG

8/9

34

1 WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Pearl K. Wise on August 7, 1999 at and the age of 97; and

2 WHEREAS: Pearl Wise was the first woman elected City Councilor under the Plan E Charter; and
3 w/a → Mrs. Wise served as a president of the Cambridge League of Women Voters from 1942 to 1945; and
4 WHEREAS: In 1945 she organized the Parents-Teachers Association at Cambridge High and Latin School and was its first president; and
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6 w/a → Pearl Wise was elected to the Cambridge School Committee in 1949, and served three terms, one as Vice Chair; and

2 w/a: While on the School Committee Mrs. Wise was responsible for the establishment of a library in each Cambridge Public School and of a federally funded hot lunch program in the schools; and

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w/a: The library at Cambridge Ridge and Latin School is named in her honor; and
Mrs. Wise's

WHEREAS: _____ passing will leave a void in the of all of ~~his~~ her surviving friends and

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WISE—On Saturday, August 7, Pearl K. (Kay) of Manchester, formerly of Cambridge. Beloved wife of the late Henry. Loving mother of Robert Wise of Belmont, Abigail Simons of San Jose, CA, David Wise of Rockport and Rebecca Sachs of San Francisco, CA. Adored grandmother of nine and great grandmother of two. Also survived by five nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Henry & Pearl K. Wise Book Fund, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, 459 Broadway, Cambridge. Arrangements by the Levine Chapel, BROOKLINE.

DATE: 8-9-99

TIME: 9:10 A.M.

COUNCILLOR:

① Sullivan — Mayor — ③ Duchay
② MD

BIRTHDAY:

BIRTH:

DEATH:

MARRIAGE:

ANNIVERSARY:

BACKGROUND IN 8/8/99 Globe NEWSPAPER

NAME:

Pearl K. Wise

Message taken by:

Doris Murphy



City of Cambridge

R-34.

IN CITY COUNCIL

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Resolution #34

927R

Councillors Sullivan, Davis, Mayor Duehay
Vice Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
re: Resolution on the death of Pearl K.
Wise.

In City Council September 13, 1999.

ORDER ADOPTED