



City of Cambridge

R-39.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 24, 2000

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

- WHEREAS: On April 1, 2000 Mike Cogliandro retired; and
- WHEREAS: "Mike the Barber" has been cutting hair in Cambridge for fifty years; and
- WHEREAS: Mike was born in Lawrence, moved to Italy at three, where he learned his trade, and returned to the United States at age fifteen; and
- WHEREAS: At the age of eighteen Mike purchased his own barber shop; however his career was interrupted due to World War II; and
- WHEREAS: After the war Mike went to hairdressing school but was unable to find work so he returned to work as a barber at the Harvard Barber Shop in Harvard Square; and
- WHEREAS: Over the years Mike has worked at such hairdressing establishments such as Eleganza and Hair Connection; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its best wishes to Mike Cogliandro on the occasion of his retirement and wish him health and happiness in his retirement; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Mike Cogliandro on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 24, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Yorney

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Whereas After the war Mike went to hairdressing school but was unable to find work so he went back to work as a barber at the Harvard Barber Shop in Harvard Square; and

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Resolved: That this City Council go on record expressing its best wishes to Mike Cogliandro on the occasion of his retirement & wish him health &

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Resolved S & C to M. Ke

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'Mike the Barber' hangs up his scissors after 68 years

BY RYAN THOMPSON

Chronicle Staff

After 50 years of cutting hair in Cambridge, and 68 years in the business, 80-year-old Mike Cogliandro, is planning to retire this week on April 1.

"Mike the Barber," has been in this business since he was 12 years old, cutting the hair of princes, war heroes, movie stars, Nobel prize winners, and sometimes even four generations of families.

"It's about time to take it easy," he said.

Born in Lawrence, Mike moved to southern Italy when he was 3 years old. He spent his childhood there, and first learned the hair-cutting trade at a local barber shop.

The last time Mike was in Italy was a couple of years ago when one of his clients felt that Mike was working too hard. The next day, he received two plane tickets to Italy as a gift.

When Mike was 15, he moved from Italy to the Boston area and got a job in East Boston cutting hair. Three years later, with the help of his uncle, he was able to purchase his own barber shop.

"It cost \$300," Mike said. "But that was a lot of money back then."

Shortly after, Mike had to give the shop back to the person he bought it from.

"The war started, and I was drafted immediately," he said.

He spent over two years fighting in World War II in Panama, Burma and India. After the war, he moved back home and went to hairdressing school.

Unfortunately there was no work for him.

"No jobs for anybody," he said. "They were coming out of the schools like chickens."

So, Mike went back to being a barber and got a job at the Harvard Barber Shop in Harvard Square. Then he bought his own barber shop on Dunster Street, which he owned for nine years before the Holyoke Center was built in the early '60s.

"They knocked down the whole block," Mike said.

With a partner, Mike bought another shop in 1963. Gino and Mike's Barber Shop, on Massachusetts Avenue, lasted nearly 20 years before he sold it in 1982.

Mike continued to work at the same shop, now called Eleganza, part time for another decade. He then moved up the street to the Hair Connection, 1768A Massachusetts Ave.

"We adopted him seven years ago," Angela Sbordone, one of three sisters who work there, said.

"Everybody's going to miss him very much," she said. "We're heartbroken that's he's leaving, but at the same time we're very happy for him."

Mike lives with his wife, Ann, in Revere. The two have been married for nearly 53 years, and have three children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Mike says that he has no plans for the future. He wants to "see how it feels" to be retired.

At 80 years old, Mike is way past the age of retirement, although he certainly looks and acts a lot younger.

"Most people think I'm about 65," he said.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



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Resolution #39

Best wishes to "Mike the Barber"
Cogliandro on his retirement.
Councillor Toomey

In City Council April 24, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED