



City of Cambridge

64.

IN CITY COUNCIL
April 13, 1998

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

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of William J. "Billy" Sutton on April 10, 1998 at the age of eighty-four; and
- WHEREAS: William was a former congressional aide to John F. Kennedy who chaperoned JFK through the streets of Charlestown, William's hometown; and
- WHEREAS: William served as an Army Staff Sergeant in Asia during World War II; and
- WHEREAS: William also served as JFK's congressional secretary until 1951; and
- WHEREAS: William held positions with the U.S. Customs Service, the MDC and the State Treasurer's Office; and
- WHEREAS: William's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Marcia; his daughter Barbara; his son Alex; his sisters Helen Bowman, Dorothy Bogan and Barbara Helmsforf; and
- WHEREAS: William 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 William J. Sutton 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 Sutton family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 13, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Sullivan
V m G
K T
all

64

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WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

William J. "Billy" Sutton on April 10, 1998; ~~and~~ at the age of
eighty-four years; and

WHEREAS: William was a former Congressional Aide to
John F. Kennedy who chaperoned ^{JFK} ~~Kennedy~~ through
the streets of Charlestown, William's hometown.
; and

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during World War II; ; and

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until 1951; and
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and the State Treasurer's Office; and

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entire City Council.

William Sutton, at 84; was aide in Congress to John F. Kennedy

By Richard Chacón
GLOBE STAFF

William J. "Billy" Sutton, a former congressional aide to John F. Kennedy and one of the most enduring and colorful figures in state government, died Friday night after an extended illness. He was 84.

Born and raised in Charlestown, Mr. Sutton served as an Army staff sergeant in Asia during World War II.

But it was in January 1946, the day he came home and ran into his pal Joe Kane, that would define his career and blend his love of politics and all things Boston.

Kane brought Mr. Sutton to the old Bellevue Hotel to meet Kennedy, his cousin, who was running for Congress. Two days later, Mr. Sutton became the first person on the campaign's payroll.

During that campaign, Mr. Sutton's role was largely as a precinct veteran, chaperoning Kennedy through the streets of Charlestown, where the candidate was not well-known.

After the election, Mr. Sutton was the congressman's secretary, a job he held until 1951, when Kennedy's political eye turned to the US Senate.

"He missed Boston and he wanted to come back," said Barbara Sutton, his daughter, who described her father as "an Irishman without a dark side."

In a 1973 Globe account of the years he spent with Kennedy, Mr. Sutton wrote: "I've often thought that Jack's need to do everything in high gear was an outlet for his frustration in sports, especially football."

Once back in Boston, Mr. Sutton held a number of government positions, including with the US Customs Service, the Metropolitan District Commission, and with state Treasurer Robert Q. Crane.

He retired from state government in 1983 but never faded from the political scene. Mr. Sutton's wit, political insight, and knowledge of Boston were sought out by friends, politicians, and journalists.



WILLIAM SUTTON

"I remember he used to say to me, 'I was involved in politics before it was a crime,'" said Ted Cotter, a Weymouth resident and longtime friend. "He was an exceptional guy who touched a lot of people."

Mr. Sutton was diagnosed with a lung tumor last fall, his daughter said. Although radiation treatments had shown signs of remission by Christmas, another tumor was found early this year.

In addition to his daughter, who lives in Alexandria, Va., he leaves his wife, Marcia (Reynolds); a son, Alex, of Cambridge; and three sisters, Helen Bowman of South Yarmouth, Dorothy Bogan of West Roxbury, and Barbara Helmsdorf of East Falmouth.

A funeral Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Wednesday in St. Mary's Church in Charlestown.

4/13 3:23



MAS

Dean of
Billy Sutton, unhooked for JFK

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Order

W/9

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Consent Order #64

R-478

Councillor Sullivan, Vice Mayor Galluccio and
Councillor Triantafillou and entire membership
re: resolution on the death of William J.
Sutton.

In City Council April 13, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED