

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 361

Approved September 15, 2017

WHEREAS, The Honorable Vincent A. Ragosta diligently served the people of Rhode Island in various roles for over 60 years; and

WHEREAS, He was a longtime resident and active community member in Providence's 5th Ward; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of "The Greatest Generation" and was deployed to the Pacific Theater during World War II, serving in military intelligence; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island, earning a degree in Accounting, was awarded the Polygon Prize, and was elected into the national honor societies of Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, he received his Bachelors of Law from Boston College Law School; and

WHEREAS, He was admitted to the practice of law before the Rhode Island State Supreme Court in 1951, to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island in 1952, and to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in 1963; and

WHEREAS, He ran a private practice of law for nearly three decades, litigating jury trials in state and federal courts; and

WHEREAS, From 1953 to 1966, he served as Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Providence, acting as the City Prosecutor and lead trial lawyer for the City in civil cases from 1953 to 1960; and

WHEREAS, Governor J. Joseph Garrahy appointed Ragosta as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court in 1978; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, he was elevated to the Superior Court as an Associate Justice by Governor Edward D. DiPrete; and

WHEREAS, He was president of the Rhode Island Arthritis Foundation, a Corporator of Rhode Island Hospital, a member of the Aurora Civic Association, and a Trustee of Scalabrini Villa; and

WHEREAS, Since the end of World War II, he was an active member in Italian-American social and cultural affairs, serving as a National Trustee of the Order of Sons of Italy in America; and

WHEREAS, He was the recipient of numerous honors, including the Star of Italian Solidarity with the rank of Cavaliere, awarded to him in 1975 by the President of the Republic of Italy; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Italian-American Hall of Fame, the Verrazzano Day Award, and the Distinguished Public Service Award of the Justinian Law Society; and

WHEREAS, He retired in June 2008 after serving 30 years on the bench and was the oldest judge in Rhode Island at the time of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by his wife of 64 years Carmela C. Ragosta and four sons, Vincent Ragosta, Jr., Esq., Paul D. Ragosta, Esq., Dominic L. Ragosta, CPA, and Peter J. Ragosta, RPh; and

WHEREAS, He is also survived by a sister, Evelyne Sepe, ten grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, He was beloved by his fellow judges, lawyers, clerks, court staff, earning a much-deserved reputation for mediating and settling many cases without trials; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Vincent A. Ragosta peacefully passed away on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 surrounded by family; and

WHEREAS, He is remembered for his objectivity and practicality with all lawyers and litigants who appeared before him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby recognize and remember the life of the Honorable Vincent A. Ragosta and his commitment to justice and service in the State of Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 07 2017

READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Mats
ACTING PRES.

Lois L. Hayes
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

SS

Mayor
Date: 9/15/17