

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 194

Approved May 22, 1972

RESOLVED, that this Minute on the Life and Character of William A. D'Abate, Sr., late a Member of the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, is hereby adopted and ordered inscribed in the Journal of Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held on May 16, 1972.

MINUTE

William A. D'Abate, Sr., was born in the City of Providence, Rhode Island, August 11, 1907, the son of John Leo and Rosina (Simonelli) D'Abate.

He was educated in the Public Schools of the City of Providence. On June 16, 1929, he married Elizabeth Bond, a marital union which was exemplary, and one of devotion.

Prior to his entering into public life, "Bill" enjoyed successes in a variety of enterprises. He was a Theatrical Producer in the Boston-Massachusetts Area, a Restaurateur in Downtown Providence, and a top-flight Automobile Executive.

"Bill" D'Abate's public life began when he was elected to the City Council in November, 1940, and assumed the Office of Member of the City Council January, 1941, stood for re-election successfully during the intervening years until his voluntary retirement which ended his City Council tenure January 2, 1961.

During his tenure of office, as a Member of the City Council, he was elected by his colleagues as President Pro Tempore of the City Council from January 4, 1943 and successively to January 2, 1951; and, at various times, served as Acting Mayor. His service in the City Council included membership on various committees, thereof; notably amongst them, as Chairman of the Committee on City Property. It is common knowledge that during the 20 years of "Billy" D'Abate's stewardship, as a Member of the City Council from the Sixth Ward, he rendered unstinting service to his ward constituency, in particular, and to the citizenry of

the City in general.

His insatiable dedication to his sworn obligation as a City Father projected him so that he enjoyed widespread popularity and associations with top ranking public officials, notably amongst them, United States Senator John O. Pastore, with whom he was politically and socially aligned from the inception of Senator Pastore's political career.

Following his City Council stewardship, he was appointed by the then Mayor, Walter H. Reynolds, as Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

In 1964, Mr. D'Abate stood for election as a State Senator and succeeded, thereupon, representing the Sixth Senatorial District of the State of Rhode Island; a post that continued his projection as a dedicated elected public official.

"Billy" D'Abate was an indefatigable Democratic Party adherent, whose foresightedness became legendary in that he promoted endorsements for candidates in advance of their announcements, such as that of the late lamented President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

Following his decision not to seek re-election as a State Senator, and upon the completion of his last term of office as such, he was appointed a Staff Representative of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, to which organization he brought his vast reservoir of political experience, gained over more than one-third of a century in public life.

The legion of friends that Bill made during his interesting private and public life will remember him for his impeccable attire, an ingratiating personality, a devotion to the problems of his native City and State, an ardent sports enthusiast, and principally as a devoted husband and father.

In the passing of William A. D'Abate, Sr., a truly dedicated public servant, his memory will be long revered; his accomplishments will be long appreciated, his passing will be mourned by his devoted wife, children, close personal friends, and all who engaged and lived with him as part of his private

and public life.

It would be fitting that a suitable monument to his memory, preferably within the geographic limits of the Sixth Ward of the City of Providence, or the Sixth Senatorial District of the State of Rhode Island, be designated to preserve the myriad contributions to his fellow men, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in noting the passing of William A. D'Abate, Sr., His Honor, Mayor Joseph A. Doorley, Jr., and the Members of this City Council, in pausing and reflecting upon his life and character, do hereby express to his devoted wife Elizabeth, his sons, daughters, and grandchildren, their sincere expression of regret and their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul and direct the City Clerk to transmit a duly engrossed copy of this Minute to his wife.

IN CITY COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
BY A UNANIMOUS RISING VOTE

MAY 16 1972

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PRESIDENT
William A. D'Abate, Sr.
CLERK

APPROVED

MAY 22 1972

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MAYOR