

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 293

Approved June 19, 2017

WHEREAS, Evelyn V. (Verdi) Fagnoli was born in Providence in 1924 to Antonio and Bernadina (Bastardo) Verdi; and

WHEREAS, A beloved staple of her neighborhood, she was the long-time owner of Specialty Cleansing Co. in Providence; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated and diligent member of her community, she served on the George J. West Elementary School PTA, the Narragansett Bay Commission, Providence Water Supply Board, Providence Parks Commission, the Rhode Island College Foundation, Providence College Presidents' Council, the Providence Plan, the City of Providence Charter Review Commissions of 1980 and 1990, the Governor's Commission on Libraries, and was chairwoman of the District 8 Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, She came from a family with a strong commitment to public service and, for many years prior to her first run for office, was actively involved in local politics and served as an important advisor, sounding board, and confidant to her husband, Council President Ralph R. Fagnoli; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, after the tragic death of her husband, she became only the second woman to ever serve on the Providence City Council when she won a special election in Ward Five to fill his seat; and

WHEREAS, She was reelected by the voters of Ward Five three times, served as chairwoman of the Committee on Finance, chairwoman of the Committee on Public Welfare, and chairwoman of the Committee on Claims and Pending Suits; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, she was chosen by her City Council colleagues to be City Council President, becoming the first woman to ever hold the position; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, after 16 successful and distinguished years in public service, Council President Evelyn V. Fagnoli retired from elected office; and

WHEREAS, Upon her retirement, the Providence City Council passed Resolution #33 on January 19th, 1999 which stated, "The Constituents of Ward 5 not only elected a public official, but they had chosen an extraordinary woman. Evelyn considered her responsibilities seriously in her home, church, community, and business"; and

WHEREAS, Even after retiring from the Council, Council President Fagnoli continued to serve her community as an active member of the 5th Ward Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, On June 8th, 2017, Evelyn V. Fagnoli passed away at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, She was survived by her son, John A. Fagnoli and his wife Bonnie, her daughter, Mary-Ellen Fagnoli, her sister, Elvira LaTorre, three grandchildren, James, John R. and Lesley Fagnoli, and many other beloved family and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby honor the life and legacy of Council President Evelyn V. Fagnoli.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence extends its deepest condolences to the entire Fagnoli family.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 15 2017

READ AND PASSED

Sabina Mats

ACTING PRES.

Louis D'Amico

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor

Date *6/19/17*
