

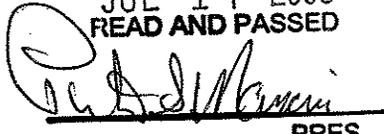
THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 310

EFFECTIVE ~~Approved~~ July 28, 2008

RESOLVED, That both middle schools located in the Springfield Street Middle School Building be named DelSesto Middle School 1 and DelSesto Middle School 2.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 17 2008
READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:

Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUL 17 2008
READ AND PASSED
EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE MAYOR'S SIGNATURE
JUL 28 2008

Christopher Del Sesto
(1907-1973)

While the public remembers Christopher Del Sesto primarily as being governor, he had a long and distinguished career in public service long before then, serving as chief accountant, budget director, and finance director of the State of Rhode Island during the 1930s.

During World War II, he was the director of the Office of Price Administration for the state, in charge of rationing of foodstuff and of essential goods needed for the war effort. His directorship of the OPA resulted in nationwide recognition of what he had done. He made a memorable speech to the teachers of Rhode Island during the war about the OPA, that resulted in the printing and distribution nationwide of half million copies of his speech.

He was one of twelve persons singled out after the war by the *Providence Journal* as having contributed the most to the civilian front, and the bronze award he received, a replica of the Independence Man atop the State House, was donated by him to Rhode Island College and is now in the form of a ceremonial mace, the "Del Sesto Mace," and is carried at each Rhode Island College graduation, leading the procession.

While in Washington, he served in the Securities and Exchange Commission and he was a special assistant to the Attorney General in the anti-trust division.

While in government service as an attorney, he specialized in prosecuting anti-trust cases, his most noteworthy ones were those involved against milk monopolies.

He was a founder-director of Johnson & Wales University when it became a non-profit institution and served on their board of trustees until his death.

Johnson & Wales University is going to dedicate their newly-built clock tower on Weybosset Street to him, "The Governor Del Sesto Clock Tower."

Del Sesto
Law

Professionally, he was both a certified public accountant and an attorney, the only one in the state for many decades.

An honors graduate of Commercial High School in Providence, Boston University (cum laude) and Georgetown University Law School (cum laude), he did advanced studies in taxation and law at New York University Law School, the University of Miami, and the Practicing Law Institute, New York. He specialized in taxation and finance, and lectured widely on the subject.

First elected governor in 1956, he was denied the right to serve when the supreme court invalidated 4,954 votes after the famous "Long Count." He was elected again in 1958 and served his term.

Among his "firsts" are that he was nationwide the first Republican governor of Italian-American descent; the first Republican governor elected in Rhode Island during the post-war period, ending close to two decades of Republican losses; and the first certified public accountant elected in any state as a governor.

He was appointed to the superior court in 1966 where he served until his death in 1973.

He participated in a wide variety of civic and community events, and served as president of the Italo-American Club. He was a member of the University Club and the Dunes Club.

He was devoted to his parents, Eraclio and Rosa (Geremia), who immigrated here from Pietravairano, Italy, in 1890, both of whom became naturalized citizens in 1896.

Del Sesto
Law

He and his wife, Lola Elda (Faraone), had three children, each of whom graduated from law school: Christopher T., Ronald W., and Gregory T.

Fluent in Italian and Spanish, he became the unofficial spokesman for a delegation of governors that President Eisenhower sent to Brazil and Argentina in 1960. He was the only American governor in the group that spoke Spanish, and thus, he was called upon to speak on behalf of all the governors. In doing so, he received acclaim throughout South America for delivering speeches in Spanish and Italian, both in Argentina and Sao Paulo, Brazil. He was the subject of page one stories in the South America newspapers, with his photographs, delivering speeches in Spanish or Italian.

He was truly a Renaissance man and a proud possessor of Italian culture.

Upon his death, the *Providence Journal* eulogized him in an editorial that concluded by saying:

“Mr. Del Sesto...never lost a deep and abiding faith in the people of the state...

“In his personal relations, Mr. Del Sesto was a warm and friendly man; in his public career, he was forthright, dedicated, and ever a man to reason where another man might pontificate. Rhode Island was fortunate to have him in her service for so many decades; his death creates a vacuum that will not easily be filled.”

Del Sesto
Law