



Ann Y. McNamara, Former Mayor of Tinton Falls

August 8, 1929 - November 14, 2012

Ann Y McNamara, Former Mayor of Tinton Falls

Ann York McNamara, 83, of Tinton Falls passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on November 14, 2012. Beloved wife of Ltc. Col. Thomas F. McNamara. Mother of Mary M. Rigney (Peter) of Mooresville, NC; Sheila M. Gelsomine (Michael) of Howell, NJ; Michael T. (Kristine) of Los Gatos, CA; Jeremiah F. (Donna) of Manalapan, NJ and Eileen M. Heinzl (Paul) of Pennington, NJ. Daughter of the late Dr. Robert Stack York and Catherine Lois (Manning) York (RIP 1940) of Watertown, MA, she is predeceased by her stepmother Mary E. (Conlon) York and her sisters Sara (York) Tracy and Pauline (York) Hennessy. She is survived by her siblings Eileen (York) Hogan of Winchester, MA; Robert M. of Everett, MA; Peter S. of Stow, MA; John A. of Needham, MA; Jeremiah F. and William F., both of Watertown, MA, and Mary Ellen (York) Rogers of Framingham, MA. Survived by eleven beloved grandchildren, Elisabeth Campbell, Patrick Rigney, Sean Rigney, Caitlin Rigney, Casey McNamara, Erich Heinzl, Julia Heinzl, Jack Heinzl, Kristen Heinzl, Carly McNamara, Thomas McNamara and 1 great grandchild, Beckett Campbell. Also survived by many loved nieces and nephews and their spouses. Ann leaves behind a great number of friends made over a lifetime of blessings, including special family friend Mary DiBenedetto.

The eldest of ten children, Ann graduated from Regis College and earned a Masters in Speech Correction from Boston University. Ann married Thomas McNamara, an Army aviator, 61 years ago. They were stationed both abroad,

in Heidelberg, Germany and in the United States, including Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Rucker, Alabama; the Army National Guard in Colorado; and Fort Monmouth New Jersey. In 1967, the family settled in Tinton Falls with their five children. Known to many as "Mayor Ann", she served as the Borough's chief for four terms from 1989 to 2005. She was devoted to public service and was influential in guiding Borough development and open space preservation. During her tenure as Mayor, the Borough acquired more than 350 acres of open space, including the soccer complex on Sycamore Avenue and New Liberty Park on West Park Avenue. She was instrumental in defeating construction of a garbage incinerator in the Borough. Her balanced approach was vital to the development of many Borough improvements, including the Jersey Shore Premium Outlets, the municipal complex on the "great lawn" on Tinton Avenue and Seabrook Village. Ann was a "peoples" mayor and performed countless wedding ceremonies (all fees donated to the Tinton Falls Public Library) and could be found daily at Borough Hall. She was a strong proponent of education and actively mentored students, including many local boy and girl scouts. In 1998, Ann was the recipient of the Spinnaker Award for Elected Official of the Year and in 2000, Ann was selected Mayor of the Year by the NJ Conference of Mayors. In 2002, she was honored by the State League of Municipalities with its Silver Award and elected to the ranks of the Mayors Hall of Fame. In 2006, she was honored by Tinton Falls CURE for her many contributions to public service and philanthropy. Ann was a member of the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the Tinton Falls Zoning Board, the Tinton Falls Planning Board, and the Tinton Falls Borough Council. A long time trustee and president of the Tinton Falls Public Library, Ann was honored in 2011 by the library for her advocacy. She served all her constituents and supported her family and friends with commitment, love and dedication. Her passion for people and positive politics will long be remembered. Ann was an avid reader who enjoyed the beach, family gatherings and sharing in her children and grandchildren's special occasions. Ann gave so

much of herself to so many.

Relatives and friends may share their condolences with the family on Sunday, November 18, 2012 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated November 19, 2012 at 11 a.m. at The Church of St. Anselm, 1028 Wayside Road, Tinton Falls. Everyone attending the funeral mass on Monday is asked to go directly to the church.

Interment will be private at BG William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery, Wrightstown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Tinton Falls Public Library, 664 Tinton Avenue, Tinton Falls.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 18. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ

Service

NOV 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of Saint Anselm
1028 Wayside Road
Tinton Falls, NJ

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I can not even begin to find the words to express the feeling of loss at the passing of my friend Ann McNamara.

Ann was quite simply a remarkable woman. Her energetic approach to making our community the best it could be provided an example to which public servants from all levels should aspire The Borough of Tinton Falls was graced by her strong hands in velvet gloves. Even today, the touch of Mayor Ann resonates throughout the Borough and makes it one of those special communities.

As my friend, mentor and colleague it was my distinct privilege to have known Ann. Her loss leaves a void, not just for her family and friends, not just for Tinton Falls, but in our world, for there was only one Ann Y. McNamara.

Mac, Mary, Sheila, Michael, Jerry and Eileen, you are in my thoughts and prayers. All of Tinton Falls shares your loss, but takes pride that her legacy lives on.

Gene McFadden

Gene McFadden - November 23, 2012 at 10:01 PM

MS

“ Ann was a great woman, Mom and tireless servant to Tinton Falls and Monmouth County. Our sympathy and prayers to the entire McNamara clan.

Mike Steinberger and family

Mike Steinberger - November 21, 2012 at 09:40 AM

CE

“*Mary, Peter and family,
Our prayers go out to your Mom and your family. Never had the opportunity to meet her but as Tinton Falls residents we did have the opportunity to appreciate her dedication and leadership.
Best Wishes,
Cliff & Arlene Eddy
"old softball friends"*

Clifford Eddy - November 19, 2012 at 12:22 AM

LC

“*My sincere and deepest sympathy to Mac and the entire McNamara family. Michael and I are so sorry to hear of Ann's passing. She was an exceptional woman. I am grateful to her for all her guidance and am honored that she was my friend.
I appreciated Ann's sense of humor, her insight, intelligence and her kindness. Her devotion to her family, friends and her beloved Tinton Falls was always apparent. Her enthusiasm in her causes and projects was infectious. She was a great recruiter. She wanted the best for the Borough so she worked hard to get it. Ann never asked people to do things that she herself was not willing to do.
Ann was one of those people you meet and, in time, realize she has touched, not just your life, but your heart. She leaves a legacy that few will ever match. Good-bye my dear friend. Thank you for your incredible leadership, your sincere devotion, and your remarkable resolve. God bless you. He surely blessed all of us who knew you.*

LuAnn Catlin

LuAnn Catlin - November 17, 2012 at 07:30 PM

GB

“ When we first moved to Tinton Falls in 1978(directly across the street), Ann McNamara was the first person on Wellington Drive to come over and introduce herself. She and her family welcomed us with open arms. It didn't take long before Ann found out about our interests and got us involved with the borough Recreation Commission. With her support for the program in its early years, it has turned into one of the finest programs in the State of NJ. She had the vision to know the value sport would have in building a strong community and in developing the open space throughout the borough.

Ann was not one dimensional in her thinking, she dedicated her years as a community leader and Mayor for the betterment of the residents of Tinton Falls without having an ego. Tinton Falls has lost one GREAT PERSON.

To her family, we offer our sincere condolences. We loved you and your family.

Gene/Peggy/Kathleen Bailey

Gene Bailey - November 16, 2012 at 07:26 PM

LM

“ On behalf of the Monmouth Council, Boy Scouts of America, we extend our condolences and prayers to Ann's family. Ann was a former member of our Executive Board and served as Chair of our "Good Turn for America" community service program. We remember her outstanding leadership and commitment to Scouting..
Lee Marconi, Executive Director

Lee A. Marconi - November 16, 2012 at 02:15 PM

SG

“ Ann McNamara was a true role model, a community leader and inspiration to us all. I knew of her through the Tinton Falls political arena, but had the pleasure of working with her on Tinton Falls C.U.R.E. She was passionate about helping others. She was funny, engaging, intelligent and sweet. I am glad I had the opportunity to get to know her. As a Monmouth Falcon Pop Warner Football/Cheer parent and volunteer, we have Ann to thank for our home football field on West Park Aveue. Over 500 families from Eatontown, Tinton Falls and Shrewsbury Borough are part of the Pop Warner Monmouth Falcon family. Ann was a major force in the dream that became a reality for MFPW. We will always be grateful to her. There is so much to say about this wonderful woman, four terms as Mayor of TF speaks for itself. Our deepest sympathies to the family. Ann is Tinton Falls, a cornerstone and part of our foundation, her spirit will be with us forever. Thank you for sharing her with us.
Anthony, Susan, Alec and Anthony Guarino

Susan Guarino - November 16, 2012 at 01:24 PM

EO

“ Ann McNamara truly cared about the youth of our community. She was willing to acknowledge and support their efforts to improve their lives and the community. Her support of the library was just another instance of her positive influence on our town. She will be greatly missed.

Ellen OBrien - November 16, 2012 at 12:23 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ann Y. McNamara, Former Mayor of Tinton Falls.



November 16, 2012 at 11:45 AM

JR

“ To the McNamara Family, my sincere and deepest condolences to all in your family. I have had the privilege and honor to have worked with Ann on different Boards and projects within the community. She was a great lady and Mayor and will be greatly missed. The Tinton Falls community has suffered a great loss with Ann's passing.

Jeff Rauch

Jeff Rauch - November 16, 2012 at 09:22 AM

JC

“ I met Ann for the first time when I was a young girl scout participating in a Memorial Day ceremony on the TF Town Green. I will never forget what a nice and kind woman she was and all the wonderful things she has done for a town that I have called home for over 23 years. Her advocacy for women in particular stands out. My condolences to her family and friends, Ann will be missed by countless many!

Jen Cobuzzi - November 16, 2012 at 08:59 AM

JB

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Ann. She was a wonderful lady and a great mayor. I am honored to have worked for her and with her. My condolences to her family and friends.

*John Bucciero
Fieldale, Va.*

John N. Bucciero - November 16, 2012 at 08:40 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ann Y. McNamara, Former Mayor of Tinton Falls.*



November 16, 2012 at 08:18 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ann Y. McNamara, Former Mayor of Tinton Falls.*



November 16, 2012 at 08:17 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Ann's passing. She was a model for all who hold public office and a class act all the way. I'm so glad we had the opportunity to honor her. Lynda Rose, President/COO Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce.*

Lynda Rose - November 16, 2012 at 06:51 AM



“ *To Mary and the rest of the McNamara Family: My deepest and sincere condolences to you and the loved ones of your dearly departed mother. She was a beacon to women everywhere when she took the helm as Mayor of our great town. May her legacy live on through all of you.*

Gale Stafford Gage



Gale Stafford Gage - November 15, 2012 at 06:56 PM

JS

“ We will love her always. Her concern for the residence and their families gave birth to the ground breaking legalization of Home Based Businesses. Just one of the many things she did. Most important, her heart was filled with love and caring for those who knew her. We who live in Tinton Falls are so much the better because she lived. Thank you to the McNamara Family for sharing her with us for all those years. In no small way, many of us think of her as family. I will miss her the rest of my life. She was the best of us all!

Denise Catalano and Jerry R. Spumberg

Jerry R, Spumberg - November 15, 2012 at 06:42 PM

DC

“ To the McNamara family - Please know that we share your grief and wish you comfort at this difficult time. We will miss Ann as a friend and neighbor.

The Crockers

Doris & Clinton Crocker - November 15, 2012 at 06:30 PM

YH

“ The Tinton Falls Community was so very fortunate to have a woman like Ann as Mayor and friend. She will be remembered fondly for her strength, compassion, and spirit. Many thanks to the McNamara family for sharing her with us all these years.

*Wishing you peace and comfort,
Yonna and Don Hall*

Yonna D. Hall - November 15, 2012 at 06:08 PM

TF

“ *May the McNamara family find peace and comfort from the memories of love given and shared. All of Tinton Falls will miss Mayor Ann. We are deeply thankful for all she gave of herself to help make Tinton Falls an extraordinary community. May the Lord walk beside you to comfort you.*
Love,
The Mayer Family

The Mayer Family - November 15, 2012 at 04:34 PM

WH

Sorry to hear of Ann's passing .She was a remarkable women and a credit to Tinton Falls.My prayers go withthe family.
Walter Heerschap
Mountain City,Tennessee

Walter J. Heerschap - November 17, 2012 at 02:59 PM