



# Western Queens Gazette

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# Throng's Hail Manton



Photo Dominick Totin o

**Queens Borough President Helen Marshall praised the late congressman and Queens Democratic County leader, who died earlier this year, for his integrity and ability to bring people together.**

#### BY JOHN TOSCANO

The late Thomas J. Manton's long years of dedicated service to Woodside and surrounding communities as a lawmaker and Democratic leader were hailed by an array of family, friends and colleagues last week as the Woodside post office was renamed in his honor.

Speaker after speaker heaped praise on the affable congressman and city councilmember who devoted the last 20 years of his life to rebuilding the Queens Democratic organization into the most powerful unit in New York City while increasing the representation of minorities and women from its ranks.

The dedication ceremonies at the post office at 39-25 61st St., were led by Congressmember Joseph Crowley, who succeeded Manton both in Congress and as Queens Democratic leader and proudly cited Manton as his mentor.

Other speakers on the dedication program included United States Senator Charles Schumer, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Flushing

Postmaster William Rogers and Gerry Sweeney of the law firm Sweeney, Gallo, Reich and Bolz. Manton had been a partner in Sweeney, Gallo, Reich and Bolz until last April. Of the other partners, David Gallo, Frank Bolz and Michael Reich, Reich also served under Manton as executive secretary of the Queens Democratic organization.

The invocation was delivered by Msgr. Michael J. Hardiman of St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church in Woodside, and the closing convocation was given by Rabbi Stuart L. Berman Sr. of the Woodside Synagogue.

Manton, a U.S. Marine, was honored with a processional by a Marine Corps Color Guard at the start of the program.

The National Anthem was sung by Sean Crowley, brother of Congressmember Joseph Crowley.

Manton's wife, the former Diane Schley, and their children, Cathy Manton Laurent of Schenectady, Tom Manton of London, John Manton of Woodside and Jeanne Manton of

Astoria, and grandchildren Nicole, Marc, Danielle and Liam Henry, headed a large gathering of family, friends and political associates who turned out to honor the former lawmaker and political leader who died last July 22.

Following Manton's death at age 73, Senators Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton and Crowley sponsored legislation to name the Woodside Post Office in his honor in recognition of his service to the Woodside community.

For three decades, Manton had served Woodside and adjacent neighborhoods as congressmember and councilmember. He started his law career there and resided in the Berkely Towers early in his marriage, according to Crowley. Also, his children attended St. Sebastian Parochial School and the family worshipped there.

Later on, the Mantons moved to Astoria and resided there until his death.

Manton was born in Manhattan in 1932, the son of working class Irish immigrants. According

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