

LOUIS RIZOLI
Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement as illustrated by John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure that we have chosen Louis Rizoli as the tenth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Louis Rizoli has displayed devoted service, dedication and commitment to the Town of Westwood. Through his service on numerous Town boards and organizations, Louis has made valuable contributions to the Westwood community and the Commonwealth.

Lou and his wife Connie, a member of the town's Disability Commission, have lived in Westwood for over thirty years. They have two daughters, Becky and Lisa who attended Westwood Public Schools and are the proud grandparents of Rachel and Daniel. Lou began his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and served as Vice President and Associate General Counsel for the Bank of New England. In 1985 Lou was named as Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was the longest serving Chief Legal Counsel serving in that position for twenty-four years under five speakers until he retired in 2009. Lou currently serves as Of Counsel to the Boston Law Firm of Smith, Segel, and Ruddock.

Louis is a true leader; he has served on several boards and committees in Westwood since the late 1970's. Louis began on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate Member in 1978 until 1979 when he became a full member in 1980. Louis remained on the Board of Appeals until 1982.

In 1987, Louis was appointed to the newly created Housing Partnership as one of the founding members. In 1988, he assisted in the passage of a Home Rule Petition to form the Housing Authority to which he was subsequently elected and served as Chairman until 1998. During that time, Louis assisted in the consideration and permitting of both the Cedar Hill and Chase Estates developments, two affordable housing developments. Louis, in his role as Chairman of the Housing Authority, assisted the Authority in the purchase of the first affordable rental housing building located on Grafton Avenue.

In 1998, Louis was appointed to and subsequently elected to the Board of Assessors and remained on the board for fourteen years where he served as Chairman. During that time, he is proud to have reorganized the Assessor's Office and virtualized all field cards for properties in Westwood that allowed residents to search an online database and compare home values. Louis spent a lot of his free time providing training to the Assessor's staff and working on the conversion to the online system. His dedication to the Town reduced the operational costs of the staff.

In his private life Louis has taught CCD at both St. Timothy's Church in Norwood from 1982 to 1990 and St. Margaret Mary's church from 1991 until 1998. Louis was the President of the Clapboardtree Nursery School from 1984 until 1988. For the past fifteen years, Louis has been an adjunct professor of Public Policy Law at Suffolk University Law School. He currently sits on the Board of Trustees and Bank Audit Committee of Dedham Savings Bank. For the last 20 years, Louis has been volunteering as a Lector at the Paulist Center in Boston. Louis is truly a leader and honorable public servant and we are fortunate to have him in the Westwood community.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Louis Rizoli and we add his name to the plaque which hangs in Town Hall of previously honored individuals.