

**Testimony in favor of Proposed Bill No 6194**  
**an act naming the bridge on the Route 72 Extension in Bristol in memory of CSM Anthony V. Savino**



Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. I am Cathy Savino, CSM Savino's daughter and the spokesperson for our family.

I am here today to speak in favor of proposed Bill No. 6194.

You've heard or will hear testimony today from various persons who knew and admired CSM Savino. A decorated, 40 year veteran of the U.S. Army and CT Army National Guard, Tony was a 2006 inductee of the CT Veterans Hall of Fame, a community leader, a veteran's advocate and, well, the list goes on and on.

You have all sat through numerous testimonies on road naming acts-but how often have you actually known who the person was? I'm here to provide additional insight into the man who upon his death (three years ago this month) was called by many in our community--an icon. But to us he was simply known as Tony, Dad and Poppy.

He lived his entire life in Bristol. His immigrant parents raised their sons to believe that respect for family, love of God, obligation to community and pride in one's heritage and country were not just words, they were values to be practiced in thought and in deed. He was blessed with a good head on his shoulders and a natural talent for leadership and he applied his God given gifts creatively and with a strength of purpose that inspired all who knew him.

He devoted himself not only to his family and career, but to his community. On any given night and after a full day of work at the Hartford Armory, a quick game of basketball in the driveway with the kids he would eat dinner and then he was off to a meeting supporting this cause or that. It wasn't until after his death that we fully realized the depth and breadth of his community involvement. His lifelong participation and consistent commitment to committees, boards, commissions and charitable organizations was both inspiring and daunting.

Tony was a man with varied responsibilities, who approached every role with the same guiding principles: Honor, Integrity, Purpose, and Service. These principles and a very healthy and often irreverent sense of humor made him a success in everything that he did. He joked for years that he'd be 'long gone' before the Rte. 72 Extension ever came to fruition. Well, he was there as the ground was broken for that project, and no one was more proud and pleased to be there than Tony.

It's quite appropriate that the bridge to which this Bill refers leads into Bristol's Veterans Memorial Boulevard, where a small evergreen is planted at the spot where Dad spent many Memorial Day weekends with his beloved veterans, family and friends. A bridge is very symbolic as he *bridged* gaps amongst many differing opinionated people.

Compassionate and caring and respected by all, this modest man would have been flattered by this gesture.

Tony's family lives in Bristol and travels the new Rte. 72 extension daily. The sense of honor and pride at the consideration of this Bill is a marvelous tribute and will provide a wonderful legacy for the members of the entire Savino family--past, present and future as well as for the citizens of Bristol who knew and revered him. It will also stand as a lasting tribute to a man who led an exemplary life of service to his community.

On behalf of my mother, Deanna, my brother Anthony Jr., his wife Rebecca and their two children Elise and Olivia, we thank you for your consideration of this honor in memory of a man that did so much for his Country, the State of Connecticut, the US Army and CT Army National Guard, his community and most importantly, his family.

This concludes my testimony and I am available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
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