



## Louis A. Gentile

March 25, 1926 - January 18, 2006

### IN MEMORY OF LOUIS A. GENTILE

By long-time friend and colleague Rudy D'Angelo

The City of New Britain has lost a truly unique and gifted individual January 18th who literally spent his adult life serving the Hardware City and its citizens, its voters, and city government. This obituary and tribute cannot possibly capture the scope of this man's love and service to this city. As an old friend and student of this highly intelligent man, this writer can only hope to enlighten those who never had the good fortune to get to know Mr. Gentile or have had the honor of becoming his friend. To Louis A. Gentile, the word "friend" meant something that has, unfortunately, been lost in today's fast-paced, selfish, self-centered society. Allow me then, to begin with the highlights of this man's achievements, knowing full well that I could fail to list all his endless personal service to his many friends and even acquaintances in the little great State of Connecticut.

Mr. Gentile was born in Manhattan, New York, on March 25, 1926. He was the son of the late Louis Gentile and Angela Maria D'Aorta. His family came from the island of Ischia in the bay of Naples, Italy. He was one of two sons, his brother Alphonse, predeceased him several years ago. Mr. Gentile also has a half-sister, Carol Gentile, an attorney in New York City. When he was 11 years old, the family moved to Wallingford, CT. Here Louis and his brother went to local schools. Louis was attending Lyman Hall High School when World War II broke out.

Louis wasted no time in making a decision - a trait that he retained and honed well into adulthood. He quit high school and joined the U.S. Marines. His brother had done the same years before. Louis served in the South Pacific and also in China, with the 6th Marine Division. He returned to civilian life in 1946 after three years of service. But the term "always a Marine" and "Semper Fi" were ingrained into Louis's being and he continued to serve the Corps for the remainder of his life in the many military associations, Marine League and organizations, always giving his attention and service to the Corps

which he loved and served without hesitation or reservation. In an ironic family twist, Louis's uncle, Domenico D'Aorta, his mother's brother, had served in the Italian Royal Marines, and he, too, was sent to China during the Boxer Rebellion, earning several medals for bravery, and he, too, continued to serve his country in the Royal Italian Marines as a career.

Back in civilian life, Louis attended night school, received his GED and was admitted to Cheshire Academy, from which he graduated in 1949 and then on to UCONN, where he obtained his BA in 1953 in political science and philosophy. Philosophy became part of the human condition in which Louis soon became an expert, both from within and without. He then went on to UCONN's Law School, from 1953-54, but had to leave because of his mother's illness and where he assumed the role of her caretaker. In the meantime, he obtained his Private Detective's license in 1951 and opened two offices, one in Wallingford and one in New Britain.

Louis A. Gentile would be the first to admit he was a student his entire life, for he was a great believer in education. He returned to education at the Central Conn. State College receiving his Master's in U.S. History in 1979 at the age of 56. His intelligence, his verbal skills and his methodology in clearly and painstakingly explaining any subject at hand is so vast that he has often been called upon to "stand-in" for his Professor at CCSC, now CCSU.

By this time, he met and fell in love with Aurea Slater, a woman with whom he would share his life for the next 50 years. Together they opened an Answering Service in New Britain that today remains the talk of the town in the way they provided service and professionalism to the many professionals in the city. He continued to hone his skills as a private detective, handling a caseload that the average city detective would cringe away from, and he solved cases that others deemed an impossible task.

By 1957, Louis, a registered Democrat, was appointed Deputy Registrar of Voters and it began an equally long career in politics and city government.

Political leader Ed Karwoski handed Louis the distinction of actually being the first appointed Deputy Registrar, a position he was to hold for the next 26 years.

As Mr. Gentile would often say in his lifetime of service, he wore "many hats." Besides running the Gentile Detective Service and Deputy Registrar of Voters, he obtained a Real Estate Broker's License, which he held, successfully, until 1999. He became a State of CT Certified EMT in 1982 and maintained his service and association with the New Britain

EMS services as a member of the board, and later its Treasurer, a position he has held for over 10 years.

In 1980, he entered Civil Service with the city of New Britain as its Investigator for Workman's Compensation and later its Safety Director, a position he held until 1990 when he was tested and appointed Director of Veteran Services, a position he held until December 2005. Another lesser known but most important, especially in today's often uncertain world, Louis Gentile became the Chief Radiological Officer for the City of New Britain in 1983, including becoming the chief architect of the City's evacuation plan, which is still in effect today. Louis gave many speeches and provided exhaustive information on this most important subject and many of his predictions on "not being ready" have come to fruition. As a Certified Radiological Monitor Instructor, Louis trained many people in this delicate and yet vital position. He is one of the few people that has been cleared by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to handle a radioactive source.

Over the next 35 years, the many hats that Louis A. Gentile wore, with great pride, and resulting in numerous awards, certificates, and diplomas including:

Department of the Army - Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Certificate, 1966  
State of Connecticut, Workers Comp Commission, Seminars on Occupational Health and Safety  
Licensed & Bonded Private Detective with his own Investigative Agency  
Licensed & Bonded Real Estate Broker, State of Connecticut  
Justice of the Peace in New Britain, CT, for over 35 years  
Deputy Registrar Democrat City of New Britain, for over 25 years  
Chief Radiological Defense Officer, City of New Britain, for over 25 years  
Recipient of the New Britain Bar Association Distinguished Service Award, 1973  
American Police Academy, Security Officer's Training, 1971  
Recognition & Appreciation Award, USMC Recruiting Station, Hartford, CT 1985  
Second Award for the Same Hard Work and Dedication in 1988  
US Army Mechanic's Course of Instruction, 1945  
Distinguished Service Award from Radio Station WDRG, Hartford, 1972  
Volunteer in New Britain Civil Preparedness, for over 25 years.  
New Britain Emergency Medical Services, EMT Certified Technician, 1982  
Board of Directors for the Same Organization and in which role he also expanded and developed the ambulance services as it presently remains - a testament to his dedication and work in the city of New Britain for the past 20 years.  
Certified by the American Red Cross to teach CPR.  
Certified by the American Heart Association as an Instructor of Blood Pressure

Measurement Technique.

Marine Corps League, Silver City Detachment, Meriden, CT

Assistant Marine Corps Recruiter post World War II, receiving 2 awards for his work

Appointed by NB Mayor to serve on North Central Connecticut EMS Council, 1985

Appointed by NB City Hall Chairman to NB City Hall Study Commission, 1986

US Air Force Certificate of Appreciation, 1996

Bachelor of Intensive Rehabilitation Services, Gaylord Hospital, 1991

Air Force Recruitment Award, 1990, 1992 and 1993

Recognition Award from the Polish Army Veterans 1993

Marine Corps League Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service, 1993

Veteran Public Speaker Award, CCSC, 1997

USMC Silver Service Award, 1991

USMC Vice Commander's Citation, 1992, 1994, and 1995

Red Cross Extraordinary Person Award, 1991

Official Citation, State of Connecticut, Connecticut General Assembly, Service to Veterans  
1997

Proclamation by City of New Britain "Louis A. Gentile Day" in 1997

Appointed Director of Veterans Services for City of New Britain, 1990

The list of awards and achievements never ends for Louis A. Gentile. But one important life passion defined Mr. Gentile's foresight, intelligence, persistence and tenacity to right a wrong was his landmark case of Gentile versus the entire insurance industry on No-Fault Insurance in 1972.

He became the Chairman of the Citizens Committee of No-Fault Insurance and took his fight all the way to the CT Supreme Court, AND the U.S. Supreme Court. His tireless efforts raged on, even as he knew the fight was the good fight for the citizens of Connecticut and the hoax that the insurance companies were trying to inflict on them, and inflict it did. The Supreme Court declined to hear the lawsuit in 1976, but in 1993, some 20 years later, Mr. Gentile's astute foresight was vindicated when the No Fault Law was repealed. In Mr. Gentile's view, where insurance was to be the citizens benefactor, it actually became its adversary, and at the same time, the State got involved compelling the citizens to buy insurance by making it mandatory. Mr. Gentile felt it was unconscionable, and illegal, he proclaimed, for insurance companies exchanging immediate payments and thus forfeiting the right for the victim to recover damages for pain and suffering. Few law firms had this foresight, and Mr. Gentile was ready to carry the fight alone and for the most part, he did, seeing the fruits of his Master's Thesis "Transition of a Tort, The History of No-Fault in Connecticut" finally vindicated, as stated, 20 years later.

As Mr. Gentile advanced in age, not even a heart attack and subsequent surgery and recovery was to get him to take a back seat. His time, which he had always given generously and selflessly to all the associations, organizations and his beloved Marines, then turned to funding, out of his own pocket and with “no strings attached.” He put his money up where he had put his time in, again, giving generously and selflessly, right to the end. These included the erection and inauguration of a historical monument to the Women’s Contribution to the War Effort at the Home Front in World War II. As this was a “Salute to Women,” Mr. Gentile was acutely aware that this was the only group that was never recognized for all their contributions in the war effort, and it was then confirmed that this was the only monument of its kind in America - a true act of dedication on the part of Mr. Gentile to see it through and out of his own personal funds.

He also made two donations of \$ 5, 000 each to the New Britain EMS, and he provided this financial assistance in gratitude of the tremendous work the EMS do to save lives. He made another donation of \$5, 000 to the New Britain Parks & Recreation Department for the Louis A. Gentile Family Fun Zone, and considerable donations to the Louis A. Gentile Youth Basketball Championships. He also donated \$ 1, 000 each to the Senior Citizens Center and the Friendship Center to Feed the Homeless. All of these wonderful and personal contributions attest to Mr. Gentile’s care for his fellow human beings and the betterment of Society.

Mr. Gentile dedicated his entire adult life giving two very strong words that few people could even compete with: HIS TIME and HIS SERVICE. These two words defined this rare man among us mere mortals that leave him standing alone in his love, dedication and service to humanity and more importantly, to the City of New Britain, and the State of Connecticut. Our beloved State is that much poorer with this great loss and his USMC boots leave a void that will be forever difficult to fill. If there is a Marine Detachment up in the wild blue yonder, you can be sure it would have no better, no more dedicated leader than Louis A. Gentile.

Mr. Gentile leaves his dearest first cousin, Lidia Sirabella, in Casamicciola, Ischia, Italy; his first cousin Andrea D’Aorta on Long Island, and several nieces and nephews in the State of New York and in Italy.

Mr. Gentile also leaves his “adopted family” made up of his closest friends: Harold Geragosian, Tony Inferrara, Jack Iannotti, Rudy D’Angelo, Mark Gentile, Greg Berry, Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, and their respective families.

“Semper Fi” Louis. We all miss you.

Funeral services are Monday 8:30 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 9:30 AM at St. Ann’s Church, North Street, New Britain. Burial with full military honors will be at St. Mary Cemetery Mausoleum.

Calling hours are Sunday 4 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home. Memorial donations in Lou’s Memory may be made to New Britain EMS, 225 Arch Street, New Britain, CT 06051 or to the CCSU Foundation, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050. Please share a memory of Lou by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of the page.

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Lou Gentile's many years of service in so many ways and so many capacities made him an example of what citizenship is all about. His devotion and service to the men and women who served in the armed forces was a measure of his good character and caring for others. His deeds and kind words to all made him a model for the rest of us to emulate in New Britain.*

John McNamara - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *To Louie "The Lug":*

*Of all my brother Bob Dybec's friends, you were my favorite. Always called "Lug" until the day that I came home and Mom said, "'Lou' is here to say goodbye." I was 11 and you were 17, and suddenly you were a man in uniform! And I grew up too, that day.*

*Farewell to "Louie the Lug," the world was a better place because of you.*

*Fondly, Jean Dybec DiPersio & family*

Jean Dybec DiPersio & family - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *being the baby of the family i can remember lou driving up in his black chevy every friday to pick up groceries for his mom and himself---my dad owned carlone's marketthey would end up around the butcher block arguing about new britain city problems---and then the geragosian's would come in with little john john running around the store and mr geragosian would keep the peace--mr gentile made a mean oil garlic and hot pepper sauce over pasta---*

*god i miss those days  
charlie carlone*

charles carlone - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GB

*Hi Mr Carlone,  
Louie was like our uncle. My name is Guy Boyajian. My Dad is John Boyajian. We lived in the armory in New Britain. If you get this message, could you call me.  
860-874-8257. Thanks*

Guy Boyajian - September 28, 2023 at 01:35 PM

HS

“ We have lost a truly unique "Man among men" with the loss of Lou Gentile. I was fortunate enough to have had the privilege of working with Lou, as well as socializing on occasion, and of course seeking his input whenever I had a problem. Lou was right out in front when it came to aiding veterans with problems as well. Lou was a quiet, but proud man and he would have been ecstatic with the accolades being afforded him, well deserved and meritted I might add. A part of Lou will live on in the hearts of all who knew him and his memory will continue to be passed on for generations to come. Rarely does a man like Lou come along and our generation was fortunate enough to have had him with us. Even as the overseer of workers compensation for the city, Lou managed to serve the city, yet show genuine concern for the recipients of comp in situations where it was meritted. I, and most other veterans, salute Lou as he moves on to his final resting place...

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**Henry Hank Syskowski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ So sorry to hear about the death of Louis Gentile. I am presently in Sarasota, Florida for the month of January. He was a dear friend & consoled me when my wife passed away in 1987. I was Director of Urban Planning & Louis, who was then Director of the Veteren's Commisssion, would stop by my office & we would discuss world affairs. He was a brilliant man & I admired his knowledge of any subject. I shall miss him as I'm sure many of his family & friends will. May he rest in peace. God bless.

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**Sebastian Papa** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM