

Blumenthal presents service medals to family of late WWII veteran and life-long Ansonia resident

By Patricia Villers
Feb. 29, 2016



ANSONIA - A lifelong city resident who was a member of the greatest generation was posthumously recognized Friday by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Mayor David S. Casseti.

Pasquale Battaglia, who died last year at the age of 99, was honored during a ceremony in aldermanic chambers at City Hall.

His niece, Joanne DaSilva of Seymour, was presented with six medals he earned in the U.S. Navy during World War II. She was accompanied by her sister, Janice Easter of New Britain.

"He was a proud man. He should have been here today," a teary-eyed DaSilva said.

Her uncle was never at a loss for words, she said. "This would be the first time he would have nothing to say," DaSilva said.



Battaglia would tell "amazing World War II stories," she said. DaSilva plans to write a book based on his memorable experiences.

DaSilva had requested the medals from Blumenthal's office. "The senator's office made it easy for this day to happen," she said.

Blumenthal said Battaglia was "a son of Ansonia and the Valley," and described him as "an American hero, what is best about America."

He said Battaglia "was the son of immigrants, and as patriotic as the American flag."

DaSilva said her uncle was a big supporter of Casseti and was pleased with the progress he saw in Ansonia.

She asked Casseti if she could give the medals back to the city so they could be displayed in City Hall. Casseti accepted the medals and said they would be placed in his office. "I always cherished his support," he said.

Janice Easter said their aunt and uncle had no children of their own, and she and Joanne spent a lot of time as children with them.

"Uncle Pat walked us both down the aisle," Easter said.

Several of Battaglia's friends were on hand for the ceremony, including Ansonia Animal Control Officer Jean Roslonoswki, Ansonia Police Det. James Frolish, WPCA Sewer Administrator Rita St. Jacques, and neighbor Tom McEwan.

During World War II Battaglia served in the Army Air Corps in Germany, France, Poland, Switzerland, and Italy.

He earned but never received the Army of Occupation Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and WWII Victory Medal.



When Battaglia was born in Ansonia in 1915 his family still used a horse and buggy for transportation. He worked in the family grocery store on Central Street as a child, and later helped his father selling vegetables from a truck around the city.

In 1931, Battaglia became one of the first car owners in Ansonia. He drove a Model A Ford, a proud memory he shared often with his family.

After World War II Battaglia earned the nickname "TV man" when he opened Pat's TV on Beaver Street. His television-repair business became a fixture in Ansonia for 50 years.

"Pat Battaglia was one of the greats of the greatest generation, a patriot, veteran, and community leader who dedicated his life to improving his beloved country and hometown," Blumenthal said.

"I am proud to join his family to finally present the military honors and recognition that Pat so bravely earned over half a century ago."