



City of Cambridge

R-3
FIRST IN COUNCIL
November 21, 2022

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: The City Council is saddened to learn of the death of Cambridge resident, Dean Emeritus of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor Emeritus, Henry Rosovsky, who passed away on November 11th, 2022, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS: Henry was known for his work in economics, his legacy as innovative administrator, and his impact as a lifelong educator at Harvard; and his sharp intellect, dry humor, and immense spirit defined his character throughout his life; and

WHEREAS: Henry was born in Danzig in 1927, and due to the rise of Nazism, he moved with his parents and brother to Brussels, then fled through France as the German army entered Belgium and eventually they reached the United States in December 1940. His early life experiences escaping from Nazism formed his lifelong criticism of the injustices experienced by many people throughout the world and his commitment to repairing injustice wherever he could; and

WHEREAS: Henry graduated from William and Mary College in 1949 and then became a graduate student at Harvard at a time when Harvard was ending quotas on Jewish students who sometimes felt stigmatized. He began his teaching career at the University of California at Berkeley. He moved to Harvard in 1966, where he served as chair of the Economics Department, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Acting President of Harvard University, and sat on the Harvard Corporation; and

WHEREAS: His many professional contributions included recommending the establishment of an Afro-American studies concentration at Harvard, developing the nation's first undergraduate Core Curriculum, and leading professional development for educational administrators. Henry was also a beloved mentor and friend to his colleagues and former students, and he took tremendous pride in the accomplishments and successes of all his former students; and

WHEREAS: In addition to his impeccable academic career, he dedicated years of his life to military service, volunteering for the Army in World War II, including service in France and attendance at the Nuremberg trials; he served in South Korea from 1950-1952, receiving a Purple Heart. He was then sent to a listening station in Northern Japan, where he grew interested in the Meiji Restoration and Japanese economic history, exemplifying the intellectual curiosity Henry brought to every situation; and

WHEREAS: In his academic life, Henry received many achievement awards and over 25 honorary degrees, and was a member of numerous professional associations, advisory boards, and corporate boards. He taught as a visiting professor in Japan and Israel and has worked variously as a consultant with the United States government, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and UNESCO; and

WHEREAS: His influence is evident beyond academic pursuits, administrative wisdom and uplifting and supporting Jewish life at Harvard. His commitment to ensuring excellence in academia led him to recruit Henry Louis Gates Jr. in 1991 to lead what is now Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies; and

WHEREAS: Henry was considered by many a towering figure at Harvard, noting his influence as a student, alumnus, University Professor, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and, twice, as acting president of the University. He was remarkably generous with his time and mentorship, imparting congenial wisdom to his friends, family, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS: Henry will be sorely missed by all, especially his wife of 66 years, Nitza Rosovsky; his three children Leah, Judy and Michael Rosovsky and their spouses, Jay Liebowitz, Kristen Mullins and Rachel Greenberger Rosovsky; he will be missed by his grandchildren, Benjamin McIntosh (Emma Labrot McIntosh), Sarah McIntosh, Abigail Rosovsky, and Ella Rosovsky, and his great-granddaughter Delilah McIntosh; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to Henry's family and friends at this time of loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family of Henry Rosovsky on behalf of the entire City Council.