

JOHN STEPHEN MONAGAN

"Waterbury has retained first place in my affections, even though events have required me to move from the city where generations of my family have served its people and where my public efforts on their behalf have centered. I have never felt that I was other than a Waterburian."

— John Stephen Monagan

John Stephen Monagan, born in Waterbury on December 23, 1911, had a dignified influence on the Waterbury political scene for more than thirty years.

He was educated at Driggs School, St. Mary's School and Crosby High School where he was the captain of a state championship swim team. He graduated from Dartmouth College, having edited the school magazine and led the swim team. He received his legal degree from Harvard Law School in 1937.

In 1940, Monagan began his political life as a member of the Waterbury Board of Aldermen. After becoming its President, he succeeded to the mayor's chair when Vincent Scully died in office in 1943. Monagan served as Mayor until 1948.

In 1958 he was elected as the United States Congressman in the Fifth District, a seat he held for seven terms. He was a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Government Operations. In 1962, he was an official U.S. Observer at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. Monagan was the author of the Drug Control Provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act and the Federal

Advisory Commission Control Act, Public Law 92-463. He chaired the hearings on Eastern Europe in 1965-1996 and was a member of the Study Missions to Moscow, Prague, Budapest and Warsaw. He was instrumental in directing federal funds to the Waterbury area to build a series of massive dams in the wake of the disastrous 1955 flood.

He served as a delegate to five Democratic National Conventions and, in 1944, was a Presidential Elector.

After losing the 1972 election, he became the senior Washington partner for the New York law firm of Whitman and Ransom.

In addition to his stellar political career Monagan wrote *The Grand Panjandrum*, a biography of Justice Holmes and *Horace: Priest of the Poor*, a study of Horace McKenna. He has contributed articles to many sources, including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *The American Scholar* and *The Irish Times*.

One Man's View of Bauby's Corner and From Green Road to Cracker Hill are two videos that document Monagan's memories of his native city, showcasing his singing and piano-playing talents. He is currently living in Washington, D.C. and still loves to play the piano, sing old ballads and travel.

In 1980, the Federal Building on Grand Street was named for the Honorable John S. Monagan, a warm, witty, elegant, literate man who conjures up the grace of another era.

