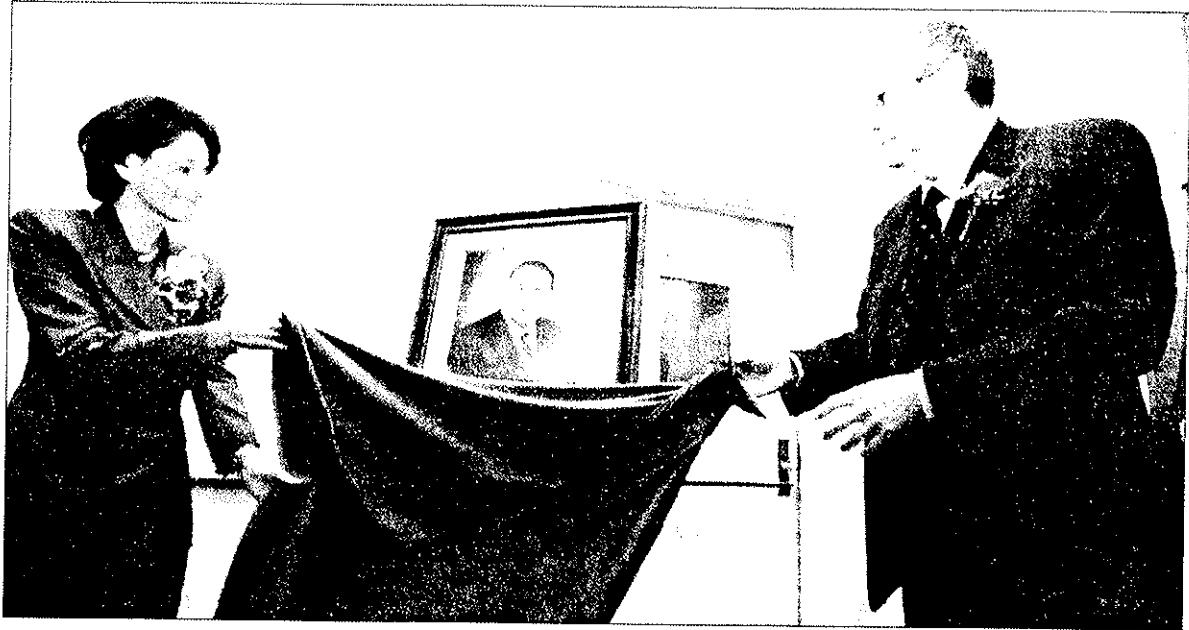


"HE WAS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO NEVER FORGOT HIS COMMUNITY AND I GUESS THE COMMUNITY DIDN'T FORGET HIM."

— Linda Maniscalco Calarco, daughter of Albert V. Maniscalco



ADVANCE PHOTOS ■ JIN LEE

Linda Maniscalco Calarco and Dr. Albert Maniscalco unveil a portrait of their father at PS 46, South Beach.

South Beach school dedicated to 'Uncle Al'

By MARJORIE HACK
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER



More than 400 packed auditorium to pay fond tribute to memory of former Borough President Albert V. Maniscalco

PS 46 in South Beach was formally dedicated last night as the Albert V. Maniscalco School, in honor of Staten Island's ninth borough president.

"Uncle Al," as he was often fondly called, died in September 1998 at the age of 90.

But last night his spirit lived on, as an exuberant crowd of more than 400 packed the school's auditorium to pay tribute to one of the community's favorite sons.

Over the years, Maniscalco was also dubbed the "education borough president," because he was responsible for the construction of 24 public schools on Staten Island during his tenure as borough president, from 1955 to 1965.

"My father would be so pleased to know that the school is named in his honor," said his daughter, Linda Maniscalco Calarco of Woodbridge, Conn. "He was the type of person who never forgot his community and I guess the community didn't forget him."

His grandson, Albert M. Maniscalco of St. George, agreed. "I was always told he was the biggest advocate of education. I can't think of a better tribute," he said.

Maniscalco's son, Dr. Albert A. Maniscalco of Silver Lake, attended the event along with his sister, Mrs. Calarco. Three of Maniscalco's four grandsons were present; in addition to Albert, also attending were David and Christopher Calarco. Dr. Maniscalco's wife, Carolee, and Mrs. Calarco's husband, Vincent, also represented the family.

Maniscalco's widow, Grace, was unable to attend, due to illness. His fourth grandson, Mark Maniscalco, was also unable to attend.

The change in the school's name from the South Beach School to that of the popular Maniscalco was proposed last April by members of Staten Island's Community School Board — all of whom joined in last night's celebration. Members of the central Board of Education rubber-stamped the local board's resolution in September.

Last night, the school board's chairwoman, Eleanor Conforti, applauded Maniscalco for his "honesty, integrity and achievement."

The evening was made for walks down memory lane, and the former borough president was

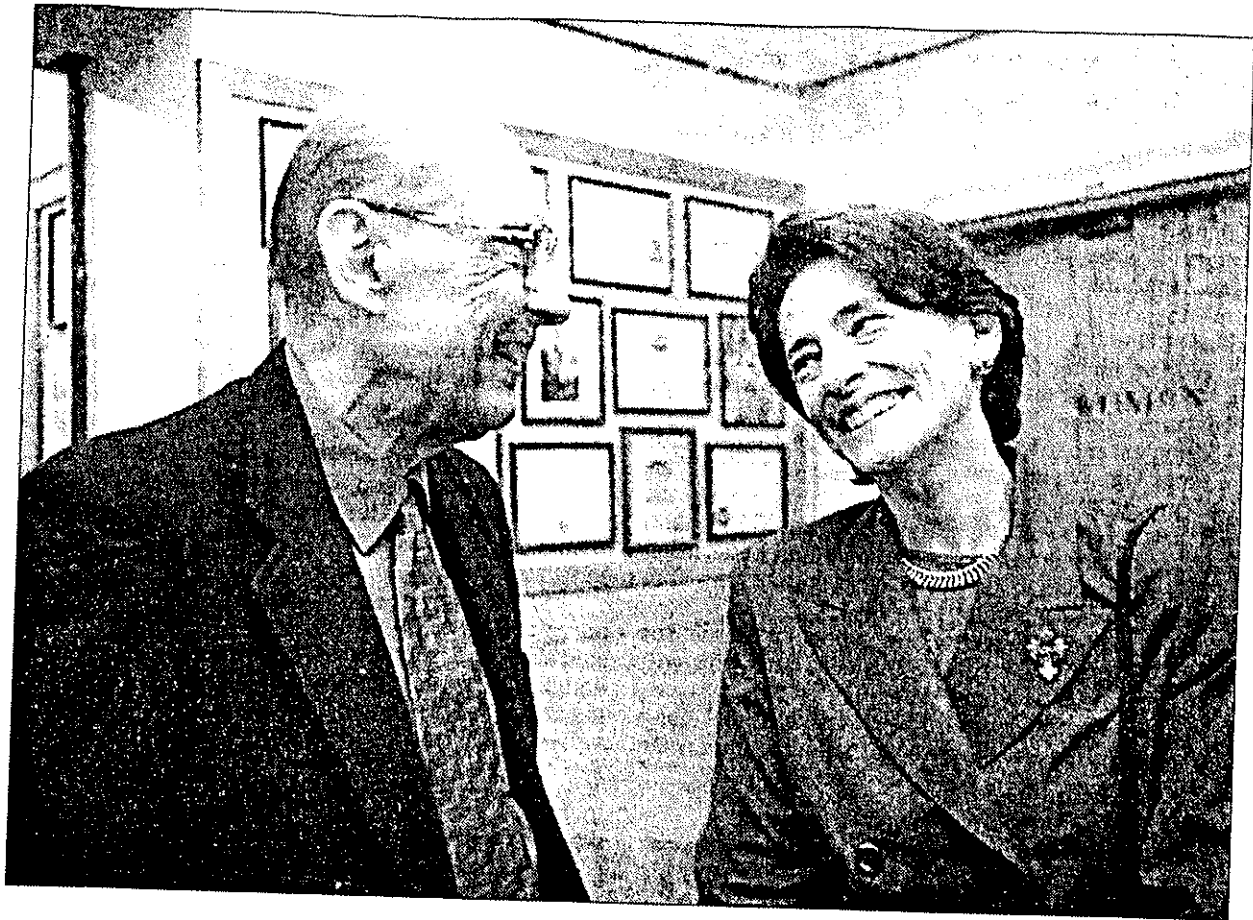


Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano, left, talks with Dr. Albert Maniscalco.



Carolee Maniscalco, the former borough president's daughter-in-law, and David Calarco, a grandson, look at a display case filled with mementos.

PLEASE SEE MANISCALCO,
PAGE A 20



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ JIN LEE

Senator John Marchi shares a laugh with Linda Maniscalco Calarco, daughter of the late borough president, Albert V. Maniscalco.

Maniscalco

FROM PAGE A17

touchingly remembered as everything from a "gentleman" to a "regular guy."

State Sen. John J. Marchi (R-Staten Island) told the crowd that he was sure Maniscalco heard it all.

"Since I believe in an afterlife, Al is here and he sees us. This is just breathtaking," Marchi said.

Joseph Cugini, principal of PS 46, called Maniscalco "a great person," and said he was "humbled by the fact that we were asked to change the name of the school. We're honored."

His brother, District 31 Superintendent Christy Cugini, said, "He set an example for all his successors."

Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano (D-Mid-Island) called Maniscalco "the consummate gentleman, and the first elected official I ever met. If this school were to produce just one more Al Maniscalco, Staten Island would be the luckiest place in the world."

Former Borough President Ralph Lamberti said he remembered Maniscalco through his father, his one-time chauffeur, as a down-to-earth person and "a terrific guy. That stuck in my mind all my life. He sat with governors and presidents, but he was a regular guy. If he was still here with us, he would say, 'What's all the fuss?'"

Jerry Cammarata, Staten Island's representative to the Board of Education, took his hat off to Maniscalco's ability to deliver for Staten Island.

"I sit with the borough president [Guy V. Molinari] and we wonder why it was so easy for Al to put together 24 schools when we have to chisel every day for a dollar. This is a great tribute to the man," he concluded.

A proclamation from Molinari was read by his representative, Marcia Meyer. PS 46 PTA president Barbara Albanese also read a proclamation on behalf of state

Sen. Vincent Gentile (D-East Shore/Brooklyn).

The Maniscalco family presented a perpetual plaque to the school in Maniscalco's honor. The plaque will be inscribed each year, beginning in June, with the name of an outstanding graduating fifth-grader. Each year, the award recipient will receive a bond from the Maniscalco family.

A display case featuring photographs of Maniscalco and related memorabilia has also been placed in the hall outside the school's auditorium.

Also attending last night's dedication were Assemblyman Robert Straniere (R-South Shore), City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island) and City Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan (D-North Shore).

Guests were entertained with performances by the PS 46 Glee Club and the school band under the direction of Dominick Matero.