

## **Paul David Vescio Sr.: A Legacy Of Service And Unity Of Placing Service Above Self In Reaching Out In Helping Others For The Glory Of God**

Paul David Vescio Sr. was a man of unwavering commitment, tireless dedication, and profound impact. His life, marked by a series of significant contributions to his community and beyond, is a testament to the principles of service and unity he held dear.

Born and raised in Stamford, Connecticut, Paul Sr. demonstrated an early inclination towards community service and leadership. His passion for helping others found a perfect outlet in UNICO, the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. "UNICO," an Italian word meaning "unique" or "unity," became a central theme in Paul Sr.'s life. He quickly rose through the ranks, eventually serving as the National Vice President. During his tenure, he was instrumental in founding 11 chapters in Connecticut, focusing on mental health reform—a cause that was close to his heart and crucial for the community.

His leadership skills and dedication did not go unnoticed. Paul Sr. was appointed to the Board of Directors at the Italian Center, where he served as Treasurer. His financial acumen and organizational skills were pivotal in managing the Center's affairs. One of his crowning achievements was facilitating President Nixon's visit to dedicate the new Italian Center Building on Columbus Day 1970, a momentous event for the Stamford community. This dedication, held at the new facility on Newfield Avenue, symbolized a significant milestone for the Italian-American community in Stamford.

Paul Sr.'s influence extended beyond UNICO and the Italian Center. He ran for Mayor of Stamford, a testament to his deep-rooted desire to effect positive change in his hometown. Though the campaign was challenging, it underscored his commitment to public service. His contributions were further recognized when he was appointed Fair Rent Commissioner, a role in which he advocated for fair housing practices and tenants' rights. Additionally, he was elected Justice of the Peace, where he officiated numerous weddings and resolved disputes, further cementing his role as a pillar of the community.

His tenure as UNICO Stamford Chapter President was marked by another significant achievement: the dedication of the Christopher Columbus statue to the City of Stamford on Columbus Day 1960. This statue, a symbol of Italian heritage and pride, was a result of Paul Sr.'s vision and organizational prowess. The

dedication ceremony was a moment of unity and celebration for the Italian-American community, reflecting UNICO's motto, "Service Above Self."

Paul David Vescio Sr.'s life was a mosaic of service, leadership, and community spirit. His efforts in mental health reform, his contributions to the Italian Center, his political endeavors, and his work with UNICO have left an indelible mark on Stamford. His legacy is one of unity and selfless service, embodying the very essence of the organization he served so passionately.

Through his life's work, Paul Sr. exemplified the power of unity and the importance of giving back to one's community. His story serves as an inspiration, reminding us all of the impact that one dedicated individual can have on the lives of many.



John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you, let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid...

