



# Capitol Report

New Hampshire Senator Lou D'Allesandro • Summer 2012



N.H. Sen. D'Allesandro and his grandson Anthony

## Grandson bestowed superhero status

Don't tell Senator Lou D'Allesandro that comic books are a waste of time — not after Marvel Comics helped turn his 4-year-old grandson's hearing impairment from disability into superhero ability.

Anthony Smith, 4, son of Kevin Smith and Christina D'Allesandro, the senator's daughter, has a rare genetic disorder — mosaic trisomy 22 — that has created several health complications, including a hole in his heart and permanent hearing loss.

Recently Anthony began to refuse to wear his blue hearing aid, nicknamed "Blue Ear," and told his mother, "Mummy, superheroes don't wear Blue Ears."

It was the first time Anthony acknowledged he was a little different than other children, says Christina.

Never really expecting a response, Christina wrote Marvel Comics — creators of Anthony's favorite, Captain America, along with Spider-Man and the

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### Do you have a comment?

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## Peterson Citizen Medallion awarded to D'Allesandro

Receiving the first-ever Walter R. Peterson Citizen Medallion this spring in a ceremony in the Executive Council Chamber was truly humbling and moving, said N.H. Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

The award is given annually by Franklin Pierce University (FPU) to honor an individual for his or her extraordinary commitment to public service, selfless contributions to higher education, sense of humor and high moral character.

Peterson served as governor of

New Hampshire from 1969 to 1973 and as FPU president from 1975-1995. Peterson passed away at 88 in June 2011.

Recalling Peterson, D'Allesandro said, "Walter was truly dedicated to public service in a very meaningful way. I consider him my friend and mentor. This medallion means so much to me and my family."

Current FPU President James F. Birge placed the pewter medallion

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## 80-year-old Korean War vet receives surprise diploma

**H**enry “Bob” Beique, an 80-year-old Korean War Veteran, was awarded his long-awaited, high school diploma at a birthday celebration in his honor recently.

His family was among 150 guests in attendance at the June 30 party who surprised him with the diploma, which was presented by Goffstown School Board members Dian McCarthy, Virginia McKinnon and Jennifer Theroux.

Beique left high school early out of necessity to support his family prior to being drafted for the war.

After the war, he was a successful plumber, electrician

and mechanic, among many other things, but obtaining his high school diploma had always been an unfulfilled dream of his.

After receiving a call from Bob’s son earlier this year, Sen. Lou D’Allesandro contacted the Superintendent of Schools, and the process of helping him obtain his diploma began.

The process culminated when Bob received his diploma in front of family, friends and state and local officials.

Sen. D’Allesandro read a letter of congratulations, and Beique was presented a proclamation from the State Senate. ★



**The late Gov. Peterson (left) and Sen. D’Allesandro**

## Peterson

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around D’Allesandro’s neck as Gov. John Lynch and members of the senator’s family looked on.

Birge noted that D’Allesandro’s receiving the medallion was significant for two reasons.

First, the senator has a longtime relationship with FPU, a school which he has served in so many capacities over the years, including Vice President for Continuing Education.

And secondly, when the award was originally discussed, Walter and his wife Dorothy suggested that Lou receive the very first one.

D’Allesandro is currently serving his seventh term in the state Senate representing District 20. He is also a former Executive Councilor and two-term member of the NH House of Representatives.

An active member of the local community, D’Allesandro has served in many civic capacities.

The Peterson Award medallion is engraved with a likeness of the former governor and is presented to the recipient along with a \$2,500 cash award.

Additionally, a \$2,500 contribution is made in honor of the recipient’s charity of choice.

Last June, Sen. D’Allesandro designated five non-profits to each share \$500 in prize money. They included Hear in NH, New Horizons, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Webster House and the Friendly Kitchen. ★

## Victims may get compensation for unfair mortgage practices

**Q**ueen City residents affected by unfair mortgage banking practices had the opportunity to question state officials on possible compensation earlier this year, thanks to a forum set up by N.H. Sen. Lou D’Allesandro.

New Hampshire is receiving \$43.6 million as part of national settlement with banks who were sued over unfair and deceptive mortgage practices.

The compensation is aimed at qualified New Hampshire homeowners who were victimized by unfair foreclosure or were otherwise harmed by these practices.

The forum in late February at Manchester City Hall brought an audience face to face with New

Hampshire Attorney General Michael Delaney; Senior Assistant Attorney General James Boffetti, chief of the consumer protection and antitrust bureau; New Hampshire Banking Commissioner Ron Wilbur; and New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority Executive Director Dean Christon.

D’Allesandro described the forum as an “important opportunity for my constituents, especially those who unfairly lost their homes or were otherwise victimized by deceptive mortgage practices, to hear directly from the state officials most directly responsible for handling this effort to provide at least some compensation.” ★

# Superhero

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X-Men – asking if there were superheroes with hearing problems.

The unexpected and surprising answer, “Absolutely.”

Marvel Comics editor Bill Rosemann said he and his staff were touched when they read Christina’s letter about Anthony, who needs heart surgery this summer.

“This real heart-tugging letter ... just spoke to us,” said Rosemann, adding that superheroes, just like ordinary people, aren’t perfect. “Marvel has always had characters who had physical disabilities.”

Not only did Rosemann send the family a 1980s cover of the character Hawkeye of the Avengers, who wore a hearing aid after injuring his ear, he took the extra step of making Anthony a superhero himself, Blue Ear, whom the comic book publisher says helps people when he hears they are in trouble, thanks to his “special listening device.”

Marvel illustrators Nelson Ribeiro and Manny Mederos drew a comic book cover of Anthony as Blue Ear and one of Blue Ear and Hawkeye together.

“It was an amazing thing they did,” said Christina, noting it completely changed Anthony’s self-image and has him wearing his hearing aid proudly. Even 6-year-old brother, Dominic, is excited for him.

When Anthony showed the drawings to his classmates at Hear New Hampshire, a school for hearing-impaired children in Hooksett, they were so inspired that they created their own Superhero Day, D’Allesandro said.

And proud grandfather D’Allesandro took the story of Blue Ear to the New Hampshire Statehouse, where he introduced his courageous superhero grandson to his colleagues.

“He’s a wonderful little guy,” D’Allesandro said of Anthony. “He is an inspiration in so many ways. We are lucky to have him.”

And what does he think of comics, at least Marvel Comics?

Says Senator D’Allesandro, “They’re terrific!” ★

**“He is an inspiration in so many ways. We are lucky to have him.”**

**— Sen. Lou D’Allesandro**

# NAMI names D’Allesandro Outstanding Legislator

The New Hampshire chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has named Sen. Lou D’Allesandro as “Outstanding Legislator” for 2012.

D’Allesandro, who is in his seventh term in the state Senate, was recognized for his reputation as a voice of and champion for New Hampshire’s most vulnerable citizens, including individuals with mental illness, addiction and substance abuse disorders, developmental disabilities and those who rely on the state for health care and support.

The NAMI Awards Committee noted, “Individuals with mental illness and their family members/loved ones who provide them with support and care have benefited tremendously from Lou D’Allesandro’s distinguished public service.”

Members were particularly impressed with his work on the Senate Finance Committee during last year’s budget negotiations where he displayed “a great deal of leadership and influence in identifying bipartisan funding solutions that allowed the Senate to restore most of the funding for mental health services which the House was proposing be drastically cut.” ★

# Happy Birthday!

Family, friends, and supporters joined Sen. Lou D’Allesandro on July 24 at the Athens Restaurant for the senator’s birthday celebration to honor his nearly four decades of public service to the state of New Hampshire.

D’Allesandro has represented District 20, including Manchester Wards 3,4,10 and 11 and Goffstown, in the Senate since 1998. He has also served in the New Hampshire House and as a member of the Executive Council. ★



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# Law enforcement community recognizes D’Allesandro’s support

**N**New Hampshire’s law enforcement community has recognized N.H. Sen. Lou D’Allesandro for his longtime support.

The New Hampshire Police Standards & Training Council recognized Sen. Lou D’Allesandro at the recent graduation of its 157th Class. The senator was cited for his “persistent and unwavering support of New Hampshire law enforcement and the Police Standards and Training Council.”

Director Donald L. Vittum noted the Police Standards & Training Council felt that D’Allesandro was particularly worthy of commendation for supporting and sustaining the vision of the late Arthur D. Kehas, a former Manchester Deputy Police Chief who help found the council.

D’Allesandro authored the legislation creating a penalty assessment to provide the funding necessary for the development and continued operation of the council at no cost to state taxpayers.

“Without Sen. D’Allesandro’s commitment and

oversight, the professionalism and effectiveness of training in this state would not be possible,” Vittum said.

Receiving his award on the same week in April that state flags were lowered in honor of Greenland Police Chief Michael Maloney gave D’Allesandro great pause.

“When I looked out on to the graduating class, it truly brought home to me that while our entire state has suffered a tragic loss with the death of Chief Maloney, we have yet another group of brave men and women who are stepping up, absolutely willing to put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities. We owe them so much each and every day. It’s a privilege to be honored by our law enforcement community,” D’Allesandro said.

The Police Standards and Training Council was created in 1971 to establish minimum hiring and educational standards for police and state corrections officers, and the certification of persons as being qualified to serve in those positions, providing mandatory basic training to new police and state corrections officers, and providing in-service training to those officers. ★