



Rosemary Z. Cardwell

August 2, 2021

You were a firebrand, Rosemary, always fighting for the dispossessed. You were also a woman of extraordinary generosity and compassion which endeared you to all who came to you for help and were never disappointed. Add to your list of accomplishments, the book you published, *Skin Deep*, teaching children the meaning of equality regardless of the color of their skin. As a civil rights activist, you were always willing to go the extra mile to right the wrongs suffered by the powerless. Whether it was students burdened with life-long debt or those without health insurance unable to see a doctor, men and women losing their civil rights after incarceration or children trapped in a maze of foster care with little chance of being adopted by a forever family. When you ran for Mayor of Hartford in 1989, you said: "A Mayor's workplace is the streets, the schools, and the neighborhoods — not just City Hall. As your Mayor, I will make sure our city government works for you." You were as good as your words as evidenced by the twelve years you served Hartford as a Public Health Nurse, your presence on the Boards of the Hartford Head Start program, and the Open-Hearth Association, your time and expertise helping children in the Hartford public schools master reading. As a lifelong Hartford resident, you were instrumental in the effort to keep Elizabeth Park a public gem, joined the fight for clean water and the initiative to upgrade Hartford's recycling program. Your crusades were not limited to Hartford. In a speech in 2015, you were one of the first to warn of our neglected infrastructure — "What has 70 years of war brought to America? Not roads,

bridges, healthcare, education, clean air, clean water, public transportation...”
Those who mourn your passing your daughter Mimi, her wife Kim and
grandson Declan, your godchild Jane Biral, your sister Marianne Lorenzo and
brother Tony Zazzaro, and his wife Eileen as well as nieces, nephews and
cousins and closest friends Jean Doll, Steven Strange, Anna Hess Barresi,
Dorothy Wojicki and many whose lives were changed by knowing you.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Mimi and Kim, I am so very sorry for your loss. I loved your mom. Rosemary was a true gift. She taught me so much about people and about life. I was blessed and grateful to have her in my life.
Diane Burgess

Diane Burgess - August 06, 2021 at 09:29 PM

SS

The memories of a life well lived, and a woman well loved and loving, will bring us consolation and hope as we use her wisdom so we too may have a life well lived, loved and loving. "Look into her soul and you will see, a strength, a force, an energy. Such companions old are Ro and she, so it is, was and shall ever be..... You looked into her soul and you did see, a strength, a force, an energy. Such companions old were Ro and she, that together they have passed into eternity." RIP.

Steven Strange - August 08, 2021 at 01:04 AM

ND

*Mimi and Kim,
We are so sorry for your loss. Rosemary was an incredibly generous and caring person. She not only advocated for others but taught them to advocate for themselves. She was so kind to us when we moved across the street. Now more than ever we need more people like your mom. She will be missed.*

Nicole & Jay DeRonck - August 21, 2021 at 02:25 PM

MM

I just heard about Rosemary's passing. She was neighbors with my grandparents on Oxford Street. My grandparents were lucky to have Rosemary as neighbors for 40 years. I can remember as a small kid, Rosemary would tell us to eat the raspberries from the bush that she planted and was growing on the property line. As the years went on and my grandparents became frail, Rosemary picked up on the fact that my grandparents needed help. On the nights I couldn't make it to their home to cook dinner for them, Rosemary had them over to her house. I felt very comfortable knowing that Rosemary was looking out for my grandparents. Conversations with Rosemary were always rich and she listened from her heart. Rosemary was always on the cutting edge. She was the first person I knew that owned a hybrid vehicle. I hope that Rosemary has found my grandparents in the afterlife. My condolences to Mimi and the rest of the family.

Michael Moynihan - January 05, 2023 at 08:42 PM