

# Samuel Valenti, 69, committeeman, former mayor of Waterford Township

By JEFFREY BRAMNICK  
Of the Courier-Post

WATERFORD — Samuel S. Valenti, a committeeman and former mayor, here, who was active in numerous community groups, died yesterday morning at Kennedy Memorial Hospitals-University Medical Center/Stratford after a long illness.

Mr. Valenti was 69.

A Democrat, he was elected to the township committee in 1983. The committee selected him to be mayor in 1984 and he was serving in the last year of a three-year term on the committee when he died.

Mr. Valenti was a past president of the township planning board and was a past secretary of the zoning board. He also was past president of the Waterford Township Democratic Club.

From 1974 to 1983 he was township clerk and served as township treasurer, secretary to the board of health and registrar of vital statistics. He retired in 1983.

"He was a jovial, lovable individual," said close friend and political ally Joseph A. Maressa.

Maressa said Mr. Valenti often served as master of ceremonies at community functions.

"He was always telling jokes and was a tremendous master of ceremonies," Maressa said.

"On the local community level he was just as important as an Abraham Lincoln. He epitomized Americanism," Maressa said.

"I never heard him say a cross word about anyone."

Mr. Valenti was born and reared in Atco.



**SAMUEL S. VALENTI**  
... WWII veteran

A U.S. Army infantry veteran of World War II, he was a battalion sergeant major in the 106th Division. He received a Bronze Star for bravery and a Purple Heart after being wounded at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest.

Shortly after returning home he started Valenti's Food Market on Atco Avenue, where he became affectionately known as "Sam the Meat Man." He operated the market for 28 years.

He was a charter member and past president of the Atco Lion's Club and was past president and adjutant at Post 311 American Legion.

Mr. Valenti was past president and a trustee of the Atco Sons of Italy and was named 1983 Man of the Year at a retirement dinner held in his honor by the Sen. Joseph A. Maressa Sons of Italy.

Active in church affairs, Mr. Valenti was a member of Assumption Church, here, and for 25 years took collection at Mass on Sundays.

He also was past president of both the Atco Businessman's Association and the Camden County Clerk's Association. He was a member of the San Sostine Society of Waterford and the Lindenwold Council of the Knights of Columbus, and he was active in other community affairs.

He is survived by his wife, Jennie; a son, Samuel Jr. of Atco; a daughter, Terri at home; four brothers, Frank of Woodlynne, Peter of Sicklerville, Joseph of Atco and Charles of Pennsauken; two sisters, Jean Macaluso of Atco and Anna Pietrobono of Stratford, and two grandchildren.

Relatives and friends may attend a viewing tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Leroy P. Wooster Funeral Home, White Horse Pike, Atco.

A service will be held 9 a.m. Friday in the funeral home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday in Assumption Church, 110 Atco Ave., Atco. Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Berlin Borough.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Camden County Chapter, Haddon Avenue, Collingswood, N.J. 08108, or to the Assumption Church Building Fund, 110 Atco Ave., Atco, N.J. 08004.

## 1985-02-06 Samuel Valenti dies

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