

Boston Post Cane - Tony Caruso
by Lindy Heim
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WILMOT - Francis Anthony Caruso, known to his friends simply as Tony, is the oldest resident of Wilmot at age 95. He was born on April 7, 1917 in Newton, MA, the third in a line of eight children.

Tony is being honored this week by the Wilmot Historical Society. A certificate, attesting to his place in town history accompanied by a picture of him holding the Wilmot Boston Cane, will be framed and hung in the Town Offices. A certificate and framed picture will also be given to Tony.

Congratulations Tony!

Tony was born to Rose and Domenic Caruso, #emmigrants from the Calabria area of southern Italy (located at the instep of the boot). He was educated in Newton, Mass. later continuing to train as a teacher at Fitchburg State Teachers College. He taught woodworking for 20 years at Quincy Vocational High School and also taught adult education at various other schools. He speaks Italian and English equally well.

During WWII Tony served in the U.S. Navy as a cook on a landing ship tank LST334 during the Guam and Okinawa battles. In 1947 Tony built the first house of many in the area, this one on Bradley Lake in Andover. He built his own house in Wilmot on 14 acres of land that he purchased for \$250 in 1956 after "looking for just the right spot." "We shook hands and that closed the deal," he remembers. This is where he resides today with frequent visitors and three female guinea pig friends to keep him company.

Tony raised three boys and a daughter all of whom are still living. Tom, Frank and John are retired from careers as a principal, U. S. Air Force serviceman, and USMC serviceman, respectively. Tony's daughter Toni is an engineer, having earned her degree from Tufts University. All four are residing in Connecticut or Massachusetts. Sisters Eleanor and Rose still live in Connecticut.

Tony always loved Wilmot and the surrounding area and considers it home. As an outdoorsman, hunting and fishing and splitting wood are activities he has enjoyed over the years. All of his friends wish him well and congratulate him on being the oldest male resident in town.