

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE:

Tony J. Sustarsic, former Mayor of Euclid - 50 year member of American Legion Euclid Post 343 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2008

"We honor all Ohio Veterans for their selfless service to our communities and to our nation. The men and women of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2008 are true examples of dedication to country through a lifetime of service." Ohio Governor Ted Strickland

Formal Induction Ceremonies will be on Friday, November 7th at 3:00 p.m. in the Franklin County Veterans Memorial. Prior to that, the City of Columbus will have a Veterans Day parade from noon until 1:30 p.m., followed by a public reception at the Memorial at 2:00 p.m.

Tony J. Sustarsic, former Mayor of Euclid (1976-1980) will be so honored.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Christmas of 1944 saw the future Mayor and his unit, Task Force Hogan, surrounded in the town of Macouray, Belgium by German forces who threatened complete annihilation. Vowing to hold their ground to the last man, despite running out of supplies, food and ammunition, they were later ordered by Third Armored Major General Maurice Rose to destroy all equipment and escape through enemy lines. Fourteen hours later, "Hogan's 400" successfully made it to main headquarters.

The battles in Sterpigny and Cherain which closed out the Ardennes Campaign were arguably the fiercest fighting in the annals of the history of the Third Armored Division. They also proved to be the last and almost fatal action of the Bulge for the young tank commander from Euclid. A direct hit into a farmhouse he and an artillery officer fled to escape their destroyed tank cost the officer his life and the later loss of Tony's leg.

Evacuation from combat led to a year of recuperation and rehabilitation at the Percy Jones Medical Center in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Upon his return from the service, the former forward observer joined several friends from the neighborhood, all now Purple Heart veterans, in establishing the Euclid Veterans Club. This organization would continue the comradery of serving their country, and extending this concept to the building and growth of the community.

The popularity of young Sustarsic in many civic organizations led to his appointment to Euclid City Council by Mayor Kenneth J. Sims in 1954. He served in this capacity from 1954 to 1968, when he was appointed Administrative Director. Six years later Tony would reach the pinnacle of his political career as the ninth Mayor of the City of Euclid.

Due to health concerns he was limited to one term in which he was able to establish a community economic and development department, the expansion of the senior programs and facilities, city wide infrastructure improvements, low finance housing rehabilitation loans, Briardale Greens Municipal Gold Course and the opening of Euclid Square Mall.

Since his retirement from elected office and because of an earlier career in surveying, land design and development, and real estate, he has worked as a deputy for the Sheriff of Cuyahoga County in the Real Estate Division, involved with appraisals and real estate foreclosures.

In fifty plus years of serving the public, his dedication to the community was paramount, providing the best in services and programs for the health, safety and welfare of those he represented.

This legacy continues today through the many public officials and office holders he has inspired over the years.

The Mayor and his wife Helen celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in May of this year with their son former Euclid Council President, Jerry Sustarsic and his wife Gerry, daughter Judy Malachowski and husband Rick, grandchildren former Councilman at Large Tony Sustarsic (Diane), Paula Wood (Eric) and four great grandchildren, Jordan and Joey Wood and Eddie and Alex Sustarsic.