



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

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**Essex National Heritage Commission to honor
Tom Costin with Essex Heritage Hero award**

Someone once wrote the following about Thomas P. Costin Jr.: *“Tom Costin has already accomplished far more than most men in public life. And he hasn’t stopped. There will be more to come in the many days that lie ahead.”*

That was in 1963.

In recognition of all that Costin accomplished to warrant such praise, and everything he has done since, the Essex National Heritage Commission will present him with the 2009 Essex Heritage Hero award May 21 at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem.

U.S. Rep. John F. Tierney. is scheduled to introduce Costin at the event.

Costin served his country as a U.S. Marine in World War II, and he has been serving his community in the six decades since. He served eight years on the Lynn City Council and was elected mayor, all before he turned 30, becoming Lynn’s youngest mayor ever.

He was a close friend of President John F. Kennedy, who appointed him Postmaster in Lynn in 1961, a position he held for more than 30 years. In the last 15 years, Costin has served as chairman of the Lynn Business Partnership’s Transportation Committee, which has been the driving force behind proposed rapid-transit expansion to Lynn.

A tireless volunteer, Costin has worked on behalf of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, March of Dimes and Salvation Army. Costin was an early proponent for establishing the Essex National Heritage Area. He served as an ad hoc commissioner from 1994-97, and played a key role in getting the federal legislation passed that designated the area in 1996. Costin then served as a commissioner and as one of two vice presidents from 1997-1999. He also helped bring the Friendship to Lynn in 2007.

A graduate of Boston College, Costin holds a master's degree in education from Salem State and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Massachusetts. He served as a trustee of the University of Massachusetts and a director of the Lynn Business Education Foundation.

About the Essex National Heritage Area:

Designated by Congress in 1996, the Essex National Heritage Area was created in recognition of the important role that this region holds in American history, and the significant heritage sites that exist here. Spanning 500 square miles north of Boston, the Essex National Heritage Area focuses on three essential American themes: early settlement, maritime history and the early Industrial era.

The Essex National Heritage Commission was formed as a non-profit steward for the area, working in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public and private partnerships and coalitions, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness and recreational enjoyment of the area's unique landscape. For the last 10 years, the Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program has provided more than \$1.8 million to municipalities and non-profit heritage organizations to support their stewardship efforts in the areas of heritage education, interpretative programming, historic preservation, community trails, and historical records. [For more information, visit Essex Heritage at www.essexheritage.org or call \(978\) 740-0444.](http://www.essexheritage.org)