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Biography of Paul  
Screvane

1961-1964

January, 1961

BIOGRAPHY OF PAUL R. SCREVANE

Commissioner of Sanitation, The City of New York

Management of the world's biggest municipal sanitation job, one that requires 14,000 people and a \$100,000,000 annual budget, is entrusted to Paul R. Screvane, who was designated Commissioner by Mayor Robert F. Wagner on February 25, 1957.

The 24-year civil service career of Paul Screvane has been marked by a steady rise through every rank in the Department--- a performance which has had an interesting parallel in his military career, which began with World War II.

Upon assuming the Commissionership in 1957, Mr. Screvane, who is now 46, was the youngest man in Department history to achieve this position.

Mr. Screvane entered the Sanitation Department in 1936. During a tenure interrupted by wartime service as a combat artillery officer, he was promoted to Assistant Foreman in 1945, Foreman in 1948, and District Superintendent in 1950.

In the 1950 Department reorganization, Mr. Screvane became Executive Assistant to the Commissioner. He was advanced to Director of Operations, the highest career-position in the Department, on January 1, 1953.

As Director of Operations, Screvane's primary responsibilities were in directing and coordinating the work of the Department's major operational arms concerned with the job of annually collecting some 3,000,000

tons of refuse; sweeping 4,500 miles of paved streets; snow removal, and other phases of the Department's many-sided job.

Thus, Mr. Screvane was in active control of more than 10,000 men and officers of the DS uniformed force, and as the Commissioner's chief assistant, was a top policy and planning official.

Many DS innovations, operational and administrative, can be attributed wholly or in part to the Screvane approach to city government.

He implemented a total reorganization of the Department which streamlined and improved the efficiency of the entire operational structure; he pioneered in the institution of the "alternate side" parking program, which has had a tremendous impact on the city's cleanliness.

Working with top city officials and with citizens groups, the Commissioner in 1955 was a moving factor in the creation of the most far-reaching program of sanitary education and anti-litter enforcement New York has ever seen. In 1958, Mr. Screvane devised an economy program which encompassed annual savings of \$4 1/2 million. His forthright approach in labor matters has pushed Department morale to new high levels.

An important factor in the latter connection has been the publication of a Department quarterly (SWEEP), which he created in 1959 to help Sanitation employees, careerwise, through a constant flow of useful data, and to contribute to efficiency via informed, well-adjusted personnel.

Besides his Department assignment, the Commissioner has other municipal duties. He has served as chairman of the Mayor's Interdepartmental Committee for a Clean City; on the Mayor's Council on Traffic; on the Interagency Council on Radiation, and on committees concerned with slum-clearance, civil defense, and charter revision.

Commissioner Screvane is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Public Works Association, (Chicago). He is a past president of the APWA's New York-New Jersey chapter, whose annual award for leadership in the field of public works he received in 1956. In 1960 he received the APWA-Kiwanis International award as one of the country's "Top Ten Public Works Men of the Year".

Mr. Screvane previously had been chairman of an APWA national committee which prepared a definitive textbook on street cleaning and was general chairman of the Association's National convention in New York last August. He is a member of the International Association of Public Cleansing (Edinburgh, Scotland); of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; the American Society for Public Administration, and of several religious, fraternal and veterans associations. His numerous awards include the Catholic Youth Organization's annual "Diocesan Crown," for Catholic lay activity (Feb. 1/61) and citations from many other organizations, as well as honors conferred by Italy and Greece.

In February 1941, Screvane enlisted as a private in the Army of the United States. Subsequently he advanced through every non-commissioned grade to First Sergeant, and attended officer candidate school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Screvane was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in October, 1942. He served in the European theatre of operations, as a field artillery commander and as an intelligence officer, in General Patton's 3rd Army.

By 1944, Screvane had achieved the rank of Major and had been awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action; two Bronze Star

Medals for meritorious achievement; four battle stars, and numerous lesser awards.

Mr. Screvane returned to the Sanitation Department in 1946 after five years of military service. At present he is a Colonel in the 353rd Civil Affairs Military Government Area Headquarters--- a unit which, in time of war or disaster, would administer the government of an entire country or theatre of operations.

Commissioner Screvane, the son of Joseph and Anne Reardon Screvane, was born in Woodcliff, N. J., where his late mother happened to be visiting, in August, 1914. Three weeks later, he was taken to the family's home in the Bronx where Paul lived until 1952.

Screvane attended P.S. 47 and James Monroe High School and in 1934, attended Mississippi State College on an athletic scholarship for football. Then five-feet-ten and 185 pounds (he's 175 now), he was a halfback.

The Commissioner now resides in Douglaston, Queens, with his wife, the former Bridie McKessy, and their four children, Paul, Jr., 16; Sara-Ann, 14; Christopher, 10; and Brian, 7. The Screvanes are members of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church, Douglaston.

January, 1962

BIOGRAPHY:

PAUL R. SCREVANE

The President Of The Council

The City of New York

Paul R. Screvane, the President of the City Council, comes to his office with a wealth of experience and a record of accomplishment as a public servant.

His 25-year career in government service has been marked by a steady rise through the ranks of city government -- a pattern that has had an interesting parallel in his military career, which began with World War II.

From March 1st through December 31st, 1961, Mr. Screvane served in the post of Deputy Mayor under Mayor Robert F. Wagner. He came to City Hall from his post as Commissioner of Sanitation where 14,000 people and a \$100,000,000 annual budget were under his supervision. Upon assuming the Commissionership in 1957, Mr. Screvane, who is now 47, was the youngest man in Department history to achieve this position.

Paul Screvane entered the Sanitation Department in 1936. During a tenure interrupted by wartime service as a combat artillery officer, he was promoted to Assistant Foreman in 1945, Foreman in 1948 and District Superintendent in 1950. In the 1950 Department reorganization Mr. Screvane became Executive Assistant to the Commissioner. He became Director of Operations, the highest career-position in the Department, on January 1st, 1953. He was in

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Biography ..... Paul R. Screvane

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active control of more than 10,000 men and officers of the DS uniformed force, and as the Commissioner's chief assistant, was a top policy and planning official. He was designated Commissioner by Mayor Wagner on February 25th, 1957.

Many DS innovations, operational and administrative, can be attributed to the Screvane approach to city government. Commissioner Screvane was a moving factor in the creation of the most far-reaching program of sanitary education and anti-litter enforcement New York has ever seen. He devised an economy program which encompassed annual savings of \$4½ million. Department morale rose to new high levels. He instituted the publication of a Department quarterly (SWEEP) to help employees through a constant flow of useful data.

The President of the City Council has served as chairman of the Mayor's Inter-Departmental Committee for a Clean City; on the Mayor's Council on Traffic; on the Inter-Agency Council on Radiation and on committees concerned with civil defense, slum clearance and charter revision.

President Screvane is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; the American Society for Public Administration, and of several religious, fraternal and veterans associations. His numerous awards include the Catholic Youth Organization's annual "Diocesan Crown" for Catholic lay activity (Feb/61); The Histadrut Award in recognition of his work as Chairman of the New York Civil Service Committee for Histadrut(1961); the 1st annual Award of the Hebrew Spiritual Society (Dept. of Sanitation)(1957) and citations and honors from the City of New York. In 1960 he received the

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Biography ..... Paul R. Screvane

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American Public Works Association-Kiwanis International award as one of the country's "Top Ten Public Works Men of the Year".

In February 1941, Paul Screvane enlisted as a private in the Army of the United States. Subsequently he advanced through every non-commissioned grade to First Sergeant and attended officer candidate school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in October, 1942. He served in the European theatre of operations as a field artillery commander and as an intelligence officer in General Patton's 3rd Army.

By 1944, he had achieved the rank of Major and had been awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action; two Bronze Star medals for meritorious achievement; four battle stars and numerous awards.

At present he is a Colonel in the 353rd Civil Affairs Military Government Area Headquarters -- a unit which, in time of war or disaster would administer the government of an entire country or theatre of operations.

Paul R. Screvane, the son of Joseph and Anne Reardon Screvane, was born in Woodcliff, N.J., where his late mother was visiting in August 1914. Three weeks later he was taken to the family's home in the Bronx. He attended P.S. 47 and James Monroe High School (Bronx) and in 1934 attended Mississippi State College on an athletic scholarship for football -- he was a halfback.

The President of the City Council now resides in Douglaston, Queens with his wife, the former Bridie McKessy, and their four children-- Paul, Jr. (17), Sara Ann (15), Christopher (11) and Brian (8). The Screvanes are members of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church, Douglaston.

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August, 1963

**BIOGRAPHY:**

**PAUL R. SCREVANE**

President of the Council

The City of New York

Paul R. Screvane, the President of the Council, is a public servant with a wealth of experience and a record of achievement in government service.

Elected to the Presidency of the Council in November, 1961, Paul Screvane polled almost a million and a half votes in a history-making, nationally acclaimed New York municipal election.

His over 27 year career in government has been marked by a steady rise through the ranks -- a pattern that has had an interesting parallel in his military career; a career that began with World War II.

From March 1st through December 31st, 1961, Mr. Screvane served in the post of Deputy Mayor under Mayor Robert F. Wagner. He came to City Hall from his post as Commissioner of Sanitation, to which he had been appointed in 1957. Now 49, Paul Screvane was the youngest man in Department history to achieve that position.

Paul R. Screvane entered the city service in 1936 via the Department of Sanitation. During a tenure interrupted by wartime service as a combat artillery officer, he was promoted up through the ranks becoming, in 1950, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner. On January 1st, 1953, he became Director of Operations, the highest career-position in the Department. As the Commissioner's chief assistant he was a top policy and planning official and was in active control of a veritable "army" of personnel.

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**Biography ... Council President Screvane**

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Many DS innovations, operational and administrative are attributable to Commissioner Screvane. He was a moving factor in the creation of the most far reaching program of Sanitary education and anti-litter enforcement New York has ever seen. He devised an economy program which encompassed annual savings of four and a half million dollars. He instituted the publication of a Department quarterly (SWEEP) to help employees through a constant flow of useful data.

The President of the Council has served as chairman of the Mayor's Interdepartmental Committee for a Clean City; on the Mayor's Council on Traffic; on the Inter-Agency Council on Radiation and on committees concerned with Civil Defense, Slum Clearance and Charter Revision.

As the City Charter provides, he served as Acting Mayor during Mayor Wagner's summer vacation abroad ('62) (signing into law several major bills including the measure to prohibit the importation of strike-breakers.) and during the Mayor's recent trip to Hawaii and Japan ('63).

Council President Screvane is the author of Local Law No. 104, Int. No. 92, known as the "Freedom Riders" Law, and passed by the Council on August 30, 1962.

In the Office of Council President, he reports each month on the achievements and the work of the Council via the municipal radio and television facilities (WNYC-AM & FM and WUHF-TV). He is the first Council President to present a regular monthly broadcast REPORT to the citizens of New York City.

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**Biography . . . Council President Screvane**

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President Screvane is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; the American Society for Public Administration, and of several religious, fraternal and veterans associations. He is the Vice-President of the American Public Works Association. His numerous awards include citations from the Catholic Youth Organization, the Histadrut, the B'nai B'rith, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Association for the Prevention of Addiction to Narcotics (NAPAN), the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the United States Treasury Department, the Red Cross, and honors conferred by the governments of Italy and Greece, including the designation Knight of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy.

He is an active participant on committees of the Greater New York Fund, the World's Fair and the United Service Organizations (U. S. O.)

In June, 1962, at the invitation of the Israeli government, he toured that middle east state from border to border as an observer, reporting his impressions of Israel at a major conference of the Histadrut.

Paul Screvane enlisted as a private in the Army of the United States in February, 1941. Subsequently he advanced through every non-commissioned grade to First Sergeant and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in October, 1942. He served in the European theatre of operations as a Field Artillery Commander and as an Intelligence officer in General Patton's 3rd Army.

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Biography ... Council President Screvane

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Paul R. Screvane, the son of Joseph and Anne Reardon Screvane, was born in August, 1914 at Woodcliff, New Jersey where his late mother was visiting. Three weeks later he was taken to the family home in The Bronx. He attended Public School 47 and James Monroe High School (Bx.) and in 1934 was awarded an athletic scholarship for football to Mississippi State College -- he played halfback.

The President of the Council now resides in Douglaston, Queens with his family -- Mrs. Screvane, the former Bridie McKessey, and their four children -- Paul, Jr., (19), Sara Ann, (16), Christopher, (13), and Brian, (10). The Screvanes are members of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church, Douglaston.

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August, 1964

BIOGRAPHY:

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President of the Council

The City of New York

Paul R. Screvane, the President of the Council, is a public servant with a wealth of experience and a record of achievement in government service.

The Poverty Operations Coordinator of the City's anti-poverty program and co-chairman of the Mayor's Poverty Council, Paul Screvane was elected to the Presidency of the Council of the City of New York in November, 1961. He polled almost a million and a half votes in a history-making, nationally acclaimed New York municipal election.

Paul Screvane's 28 year career in government has been marked by a steady rise through the ranks - a pattern that has had an interesting parallel in his military career; a career that began with World War II.

From March 1st through December 31st, 1961, Mr. Screvane served in the post of Deputy Mayor under Mayor Robert F. Wagner. He came to City Hall from his post as Commissioner of Sanitation, to which he had been appointed in 1957. Now 50, Paul Screvane was the youngest man in Department history to achieve that position. Paul R. Screvane entered the city service in 1936 via the Department of Sanitation. During a tenure interrupted by wartime service as a combat artillery officer, he was promoted up through the ranks becoming, in 1950, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner. On January 1st, 1953, he became Director of

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Many DS innovations, operational and administrative are attributable to Commissioner Screvane. He was a moving factor in the creation of the most far reaching program of Sanitary education and anti-litter enforcement New York has ever seen. He devised an economy program which encompassed annual savings of four and a half million dollars. He instituted the publication of a Department quarterly (SWEEP) to help employees through a constant flow of useful data.

In addition to his current assignment as the Mayor's Task Force Chief in the War Against Poverty, the President of the Council has served as chairman of the Mayor's Interdepartmental Committee for a Clean City; on the Mayor's Council on Traffic; on the Inter-Agency Council on Radiation and on committees concerned with Civil Defense, Slum Clearance and Charter Revision.

As the City Charter provides, he serves as Acting Mayor during Mayor Wagner's trips away from the City. As Acting Mayor he has signed into law several major bills including the measure that prohibits the importation of strike-breakers.

President Screvane is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; the American Society for Public Administration, and of several religious, fraternal and veterans associations. He is President of the American Public Works Association. His numerous awards include citations from the Catholic Youth Organization, the Histradut, the B'nai B'rith, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Association for the Prevention of  
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Addiction to Narcotics (NAPAN), the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the United States Treasury Department, the Red Cross, the 100 Year Association, and honors conferred by the governments of Italy and Greece including the designation Knight of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy.

He is an active participant on committees of the Greater New York Fund, the World's Fair and the United Service Organizations (U.S.O.)

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The President of the Council now resides in Douglaston, Queens with his family -- Mrs. Screvane, the former Bridie McKessy, and their four children -- Paul, Jr., (20), Sara Ann (17), Christopher, (14), and Brian (11). Paul, Jr. currently is serving with the United States Air Force, and is stationed out of the country. The Screvanes are members of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church, Douglaston.