



Republican file photo

Springfield Mayor Michael J. Albano puts his fingers to his lips after giving the State of the City address in Springfield in January 1998.

Mayor Albano proud of legacy

The departing Springfield mayor cited city construction plans among his accomplishments since 1995.

By **BEA O'QUINN DEWBERT**

Staff writer

beaodew@regispc.com

SPRINGFIELD - As the city begins to prepare for a new administration, a new style of leadership and a new set of political priorities, Mayor Michael J. Al-

bano has begun to pack.

Photographs that once adorned the office mantle - Albano standing alongside such prominent political figures as President Bill Clinton, the late Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy - have been removed. Memorabilia and plaques

have been boxed in the office floor.

"I think I'll be most remembered for the vibrancy of this administration, for getting the job done," said Albano, 61. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, being mayor."

As for regrets, Albano said he wished he had developed a city-wide program for the homeless and tackled ongoing education problems such as underperforming schools.

Albano, who chose not to seek re-election, has served as mayor since 1995. He was on the City Council from 1991 to 1995 and the School Committee from 1988 to 1990.

Mayor Charles V. Ryan Jr., who held the chief executive's seat in the 1990s, defeated state Sen. Linda J. Melconian in the November election for mayor. Ryan will be inaugurated Jan. 5.

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