



## Albert Costa Leaves a Legacy to AMIB

*AMIB recently became the beneficiary of a bequest from Albert R. Costa. In his will, he provided for a Unitrust and a Charitable Remainder Trust for AMIB and other beneficiaries. In a Charitable Remainder Trust, the donor transfers property irrevocably to a trust and specifies the amount of payments to be distributed, to whom they should be paid, and the duration of payments.*

According to Elsa Labriola, his life partner, companion and an executor of his will, Albert R. Costa lived a rich, varied and complete life. He died in 1999, the way he lived, with dignity, integrity, honor, love and completion.

During his life, Albert routinely gave to a variety of charities. He was especially partial to those that served the blind, as he realized how much more difficult it was for them to accomplish everyday tasks than for the sighted.

Albert was born in 1913 on a farm in Vineland, NJ, the youngest of 11 children of Angelo, a school janitor, and his wife Angela. Life was hard, and Albert learned a strong work ethic early on.

When he was 12, Albert's summer job required that he work 12 hours a day and walk two miles to a flower nursery—long hours for a grown man, let alone a child. His salary was \$6 a week, which he

gave to his parents to help the needs of the family.

Albert quit high school to work for a couple from New York, who had the business of "empty packaging," whereby baskets and containers are made available to farmers to package their produce for distribution and sale.

Eventually, Albert bought the business. His father helped Albert buy it with scrips. At the time, as a school janitor during the Great Depression, Angelo was paid in scrips, not money, and he gave Albert all he could to assist his youngest son's dream.

In 1942, Albert was drafted into the Army and served in World War II. He took part in the D-Day invasion under General Mark Clark. In later years, he told of many death-defying experiences, as well as heart-breaking and humorous stories that occurred during those years, including the time when he walked from Africa all the way into northern Italy.

When he returned home, he devoted himself to building up his business. He owned and operated the Empty Package Supply Co in Minotola for over 50 years until he retired in 1982.

In 1962 Albert married Marion Phipps, a first grade teacher. They had no children, and Marion died in 1975.

Two years later, Albert developed a friendship with Elsa



*Albert R. Costa with his partner and life companion Elsa Labriola in a photograph taken when he was 85 in 1998—a year before his death.*

*Above left: Albert in 1942 at age 29 is drafted into the Army to serve in World War II.*

Labriola, whom he had known all his life. Elsa had lost her husband at the same time that Albert had lost Marion. The two became life-long partners and companions until his death in 1999.

Albert was a member of the Minotola American Legion and an exempt fireman with the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company. An avid hunter and sportsman, he was past president of the South Jersey Sportsman's League and voted Sportsman of the Year in 1980. He enjoyed breeding English setter bird dogs and had a passion for growing things. His garden of vegetables, grape arbors and fruit trees resembled a mini-farm more than a garden.

"Some people in our lives are footnotes, a mention, or a line or paragraph. Albert filled a book with me," Elsa said. "I love him and miss him very much."