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# Hampshire Life: U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte's legacy as Republican moderate

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One day in October 1990, Silvio Ottavio Conte - a month from winning his 17th election in the 1st Congressional District and four months from being felled by complications of prostate cancer - granted his umpteenth newspaper interview.

"I think people feel we're part of a family - Democrat, Republican or whatever," Conte, a Republican, told a reporter for The Boston Globe.

Not everyone in Congress was celebrating that family feeling.

Even then, the "whatever" ranks were thinning.

Conte, a nimble deal-maker from a working-class Pittsfield family whose independence