



Dutchess County Office Building Dedication

Lucille Pattison

September 20, 2013

Marcus J. Molinaro

Dutchess County Executive

History is not just made by the individuals who live through the events of the past... history is made in part by those who gaze back at the individuals and events of our past. In some ways, historically significant events and individuals are, indeed, defined by the lens through which we examine them. This is, however, not to suggest for a moment, that the woman we recognize today isn't deserving of acknowledgment and memorial. Not at all...

The mere fact she was and remains the only Democrat to hold the office of county executive is worthy of political mention.

That she assumed the office in the aftermath of a scandal that rocked our county is reason enough to have earned our collective gratitude.

That voters in New York State had yet to elect a woman to lead a county would appropriately call for a footnote in published historical accounts.

That she, a woman who cared about those less fortunate, those who struggled, those who felt overlooked would have to defend the civility, decency and fairness of a community of people may well have earned her the moniker of "champion."

Indeed, these reasons alone, would explain why we assemble here today.

But we come together for an additional reason; one that transcends any single individual. It is in many ways another answer to the questions, who are we as a people and how do we hope to live?

We have an obligation to generations past and those that follow, to write in the firmament the names of those who helped to make us who we are and how we now live. Today, during the 300th year of our democracy, we pause to acknowledge an outstanding woman who helped restore that democracy, return dignity to an office and hope to a people.

Lucille Pattison served us with distinction and compassion; strength and grace. She led through challenges, expanded opportunity and responded to the trials of her time - for that, and by Executive

Order #5-2013, this county government dedicates the Dutchess County Office Building to her and for the people of Dutchess County to always remember the life and service of a remarkable woman.

In his final comment of the June 20th Poughkeepsie Journal article reporting of her death, Lucille's husband Ross offered that she "always loved doing something she had not done before."

Well, her very election was something no one had done before. Each day in this building and throughout these halls there was always something that had not been experienced before. The problems she solved, with the team she assembled, had not been confronted before. The respect and love she earned could not have been replicated before and, as her life has ended, cannot be extended again.

Thank you, Ross. Thank you Elise, Julie and Lesley for sharing her with us. On behalf of County Government, the people of Dutchess County – as her predecessor one removed, I proudly dedicate the Dutchess County Office Building in honor and memory of Lucille Pattison.

Thank you for allowing us to do that which had not been done before.

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