

Ed and Gen MacLean Scholarship Award

Monday, June 4, 2018

7:00 pm

Valley Stream Central High School

My siblings and I were looking for a way to honor our parents. This scholarship is our way of showing our appreciation to our parents for their dedication and commitment to making Valley Stream a great place to live and be educated.

Ed and Gen's families moved to Valley Stream in the mid-1920s, over 90 years ago. They were both very young children, at the time, and Sunrise Highway had not even been paved yet.

They both attended Valley Stream elementary schools and Valley Stream Central High School. They graduated from Central during the Great Depression in the late 1930s. Gen graduated in 1936 as Salutatorian. She started CHS in 1930 in the first class to complete all 6 years (7th thru 12th) in this new building (opened 1928)

In 1929, Gen's father died. Gen was just 10 years old. Gen got her strength of will and morality from her mother, a single mother of 3 young children (ages 4, 6 and 10). In 1939, Gen's mom won a brand new Chevrolet in the Holy Name of Mary carnival from a 25 cent chance. Surprising everyone, rather than selling the vehicle since she could not drive, she learned to drive it. She, then, took her 3 children for trips to Canada, New England, Washington DC and Yellowstone Park. In 1940-1941, it was extremely rare for women to drive no less travel alone cross country with young children.

Ed flew 97 combat missions in just 12 months (1943 to 1944) as a P-47 pilot in U.S.A.F. during WWII. During this time, as First Lieutenant, he received the "Distinguished Flying Cross" and 26 Air Medals. He co-founded and served as first President of the 9th Air Force Association

Gen and Ed were married when he returned from the war in 1944. They were married for 54 years until Ed's death in 1999. Both received college degrees – Fordham and Columbia, respectively. From 1963 to 1979 they owned and operated their family business on Rockaway Avenue in Valley Stream.

Gen and Ed's lives were marked by devotion to their family, their friends and their community. They loved this village. They were proud to be a part of what made it a fine place to live and raise their family. Gen and Ed relished learning. They both had a lifetime of commitment to both the school districts and the community. Always trying to do what was right for the village. They were described as "really having the village's good at heart).

Ed served on the Valley Stream District 24 Elementary School board for 20 years until the early 70s and as President of the Board. Ed served on VS Central High school board for 15 years and served at President twice. One idea Ed put forth while serving on the CHS Board in the 70s which is still growing today "structured after-school programs for kids". Ed served on the Nassau County Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES)

Gen was the "Charter Commissioner of Valley Stream Park Commission" in the 1950s and 1960s. She was appointed to Park Commission along with 6 others. Gen was the only woman. Beginning in

1954, the Commission served during the planning construction and opening of the Arthur J. Hendrickson Pool and Park. 1960 was the opening of the Pool/Park complex now called Arthur J. Hendrickson Pool and Park. A bronze plaque with her name attesting to her contribution hangs in the entrance to the pool. This has always been a sense of pride to her.

Gen, also, served the community for decades with the PTA, BOCES, Valley Stream Taxpayers Association and as a volunteer with many other groups. Gen was honored with life-time membership by the PTA. With others in the 50s, she created the Valley Stream Historical Society which still services our community today retaining the history of Valley Stream.

Gen was chosen by three separate Valley Stream mayors to participate in VS village government. She served during the period from 1979 to 1999 as VS Village Clerk and Deputy Village Clerk. She created what is known today as Valley Stream Code Enforcement.

My three siblings and I were born within five years during the 1950s. We were raised in the Gibson area of Valley Stream and attended Valley Stream Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School and Valley Stream South High School. We consider ourselves fortunate to have had my parents as our parents and to have grown up in Valley Stream. We grew up to have successful and meaning careers with degrees in law, Finance MBA, Fine Arts Masters and Teaching.

Students continue to benefit from the Valley Stream education that served us so well.

—Peggy MacLean, South High School
Class of 1972