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OUR TOWN

by Vin Belloc

A GREAT MAN...

It stopped raining about noon on last Sunday afternoon, the sun came out and a large crowd gathered at the dedication services of the new Rocco Rescigno Park in northern Eastchester.

The program opened with introductory remarks by Jack Vecciarelli, who was chairman of the committee and did such a great job. Jack gave credit to a great number who made the project possible. He gave credit to John Albanese who was Honorary Chairman.

Rev. Msgr. Philip P. Shannon of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church gave the Invocation Prayer and in it addressed Rocco Rescigno as a man who not only spoke of charity and compassion for others, but practiced it as well.

George Barletta, president of EVAC which Rocco Rescigno founded, presented the memorial plaque for the monument at the park.

Mayor Phil Tobin carried the message from Tuckahoe praising the many contributions of Rocco Rescigno to the community.

Former Supervisor and now Chairman of the Republican Party in Westchester, Anthony Colavita, related some humorous stories about the personal life of Rocco Rescigno and the crowd enjoyed them. Colavita remarked, "This man met the human needs of all of the people in the community. He was devoted to the sick, elderly and unfortunate. He was a great man."

Andrew Albanese, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, presented Mrs. Rocco Rescigno with a distinguished medal from the County on behalf of the services rendered by her husband. Chairman Albanese went down through the years when he served with Rocco in the fire department and Eastchester Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Andy said, "Rocco Rescigno is a model for all of us to follow in helping each other."

Supervisor James Doody pointed out the great honors bestowed upon Rocco Rescigno by the people of the community which included, Man Of The Year, B'nai B'rith Award, Red Feather Award and others! Doody stated, "I never knew the man, but I know of his many contributions to the community." Supervisor Doody presented a resolution to Mrs. Rescigno from the Town of Eastchester, which extolled the deeds and actions of Rocco Rescigno.

Even the state was represented by Gordon Burrows, State Assemblyman, who was a good friend of Rocco Rescigno. Assemblyman Burrows stated, "I never met a man who was so active in community service. Everytime I picked up the paper and read of a committee on community service, invariably Rocco Rescigno was a member."

In attendance were members of the Fire Commission and officials, members of the Town Board, Tuckahoe Village Board and Eastchester Recreation Commission.

It did us good to see Mrs. Francis X. O'Rourke, wife of the former Supervisor and Mrs. Robert White in attendance. No doubt, the great former Fire Chief Bob White would have been there if he could. They all loved Rocco.

There were just too many there to name. What we like best about it? It brought together the old timers who remembered Rocco.

The monument in the park will not only bring back the name of Rocco Rescigno, but it will be an edifice to remind us all of how man can love and help each other.

Without love there is no charity.

LOLA KING DIES...

Helen Voris called to tell us that Lola King, formerly a resident of Eastchester died in California.

We remember Lola King, and so should a great number connected with girl scouting.

Many years ago we played a part in building the first girl scout cabin in Eastchester. It was then, we met this gracious lady, on a committee of girl scout mothers, a list too long to remember.

We remember getting Supervisor Bill Horan to get the land from the county, Anthony Venuti to be the consultant in construction and Ed Turner to do the architectural work. Most of all we remember Helen Voris and Lola King.

Lola was a gracious lady.

Her husband, Kenneth King was president of the Eastchester Board of Education, as we remember it.

Death is sometimes the golden key which unlocks a treasury of memories.

It does in this case.

We remember her as a very special person.