

This development has received funding and assistance from NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Housing Trust Fund Corporation and Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs and USDA Rural Development Agency 515 Loan Program.

Project Developers: Orange County Rural Development Advisory Corporation and Two Plus Four Construction Company, Inc.

Remarks made by Elliott Auerbach at the ceremonies officially opening **Glusker Gardens Senior Apartments** on June 20th, 2003:

If anybody deserved the title *Mr. Ellenville*, it would have been Eugene "Gene" Glusker, who would have worn it proudly.

He was a favorite son who returned to his community after graduating *Ellenville High School* in 1930 and going on to continue his education at Cornell University and the Wharton School of Business.

Gene, a local business icon, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, began to make his mark on his hometown through public service. His unprecedented seven consecutive terms as Ellenville's mayor set the tone for the Village as we know it today.

Mayor Glusker, following his commitment to work on the issues for the greater good of the community, changed public policy and set many precedents. He is credited with:

- Appointing the first woman trustee;
- Naming the first police officer of color;
- Establishing the first senior citizens center;
- Appointing the first planning commission;
- Creating the "manager form of government";
- Installing and upgrading the water and sewer system;
- Supporting affordable housing;
- Building a new Village Hall;
- Instituting new zoning ordinances;
- and reconstructing flood control.

Gene was an advocate for mental health and played an important statewide role in the Conference of Mayors. He was recognized for his contributions to the community when he was named *Noonday Club Citizen of the Year*.

The spirit of Eugene Glusker, *Mr. Ellenville*, is represented here today as we dedicate this complex bearing his name to serving the community that he loved.



Above: Daughter Joan Glusker Beck. Right: Son Stephen Glusker. Above right: Gene Glusker, 1958.



From the official ceremony program:

Eugene "Gene" Glusker was born on December 22nd, 1911 in New York City as the youngest of five children. When he was five years old, Gene's family relocated to Ellenville, New York (December 1916), traveling on the O&W Railroad. The family purchased a wholesale candy and tobacco business and went to work. ↗

