

Reverend Collins Honored

Rev. Julius Collins, Pastor of *Shiloh Baptist Church* in Ellenville, was the 2003 recipient of the *Community Service Award*. Mayor Jeffrey Kaplan presented the award and served as Master of Ceremonies at the *Eighth Annual Joseph Y. Resnick Memorial Day*, Sunday, July 13th, in the **Community Room** of the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum*, 40 Center Street.

Rev. Collins, who also has a background in television and sound production, has served as pastor of the *Shiloh Baptist Church* for the past ten years, following a twenty-two year military career, during which time he served in Texas, the Midwest, Korea and Germany. Before settling in Ellenville, Rev. Collins, his wife Vernice, and their three daughters, lived in Highland Falls and West Point.

Rev. Collins has served nine years on the *Ellenville Central District School Board*, is a founding member of the *African American Men's Association*, serves on the Board of the *Ellenville Regional Hospital*, is President of the *Ellenville Wawarsing Clergy Association*, a member of the *Ellenville Noonday Club*, the *Ulster County Community Action Board*, the *Sullivan-Wawarsing Rural Economic Area Partnership*, and the *Ellenville Local Development Corporation*. He also actively participates in his Church's community soup kitchen every Wednesday.

Former recipients of the *JY Resnick Community Service Award* include *Imperial Schrade*, *JM Originals*, the New York State Department of Corrections, Bill and Pidge Collier, local author and sculptor Harold Harris, and the *Ellenville Medical Group*.

Following are remarks from some guests and from Rev. Collins:

Rabbi Moshe Frank: "A fine preacher, an articulate spokesman, a capable leader, and a community-minded person and activist. All of these, and other accolades, describe Rev. Julius Collins. I think every Rabbi can learn to preach from a Baptist minister."

Village Trustee and parishioner *Earthia Nixon*: "He is a gentle giant of a man who puts his community and his flock ahead of himself. He is a family man and a dear friend. He ingratiates himself with everyone he meets, with a warm smile and a greeting."

School Board President *Carolyn Kuhlmann*: "I'm always prepared to thank Reverend Collins for all he's done for us at the school board... and he is a key member of the Board. His clear thinking keeps us from making lots of mistakes... He really has an ability to consolidate our thinking."

Village Manager *Elliott Auerbach*: "He has been to this community a spirit of what typifies living in Ellenville. He has taken on many roles and worn many hats and worn them all well. And I'm thankful that ten years ago he made that choice to leave Highland Falls to head up to Ellenville and to lead the congregation, because the congregation's gain has been our gain over the course of the last decade."

Rev. Julius A. Collins, Jr.: "I'm extremely honored and thank God for allowing me the privilege of being in Ellenville, first of all, for it is not me, but Him and the things He put in me, that allowed me to stand here today.

Through 20 some-odd years in the Army, I thought a lot of the training that I got; a lot of things that I saw were for naught, but everyday I get a chance to use something that He put in me during that time.

To the village of Ellenville, to the Resnicks, to all of you, it's an honor to be honored by you this day, especially as a



Reverend Julius A. Collins and wife Vernice join Myrna Resnick, back right, and Mildred Resnick, front center, at the Eighth Annual Joseph Y. Resnick Day, where Rev. Collins was the honoree.

community servant. For often I feel like I'm only doing what I know to do. I'm doing what needs to be done, because it needs to be done. There are those that need to be spoken for, there are those that need to be supported.

And we as a community need to do all that we can to insure that everyone in our community is able to stand proud and know where they came from, and no one walks out or leaves Ellenville and is afraid to tell anybody that they live in Ellenville, New York. No one should be able to leave this place and tell them 'I live in a place that I don't want to talk about.' When they leave this place, they should be able to tell the world 'I live in Ellenville, New York which is one of the most beautiful places on the face of the Earth. God has blessed it, and I live there, and I'm proud of it.'

That's what we need to instill in each one of the people that we touch. We need to start with our young folk and we need to work it all the way through. Because without that we fail; our community fails. I may have only been here ten years; I feel as if I've been here a lifetime.

Why? Because the people in this community have taken and made me a part of the community. No one has run me off, no one has acted as if I wasn't needed, or wasn't wanted.

So I am proud of the people of Ellenville, the community that surrounds Ellenville. And what I urge folks to do, is every one of us to work to make this area, this town of Wawarsing, the village of Ellenville, the county of Ulster, the state of New York, the best it can be. If we do that, it will be good. I believe that the God that we all serve, no matter what we call Him, no matter where we put Him in our lives, that God means for us to make a difference in this world.

I thank my family for being a part of me. I thank my church for supporting... sometimes they don't understand... because it is bigger than one building sitting in the corner. The things that we're asked to do in life encompass everyone that we touch; it encompasses making a difference in every young person, every middle-aged person, and every senior person's life. We need to be able to bring a smile; we need to be able to bring out the best in everybody that we touch. If every one of us reaches to do that, we'll make this world a better place. And it will be better because YOU passed through.

I thank you for the honoring; I thank you for the privilege of just being a part of this community. And I pray that God will continue to show, not only me, but all of us how to make this world a better place. Thank you." 