

Milestones



Eugene B. Houck passed away on March 13, 2004, at the age of 81. He was born in Ellenville on August 8, 1922, the son of John and Lillian Murphy Houck.

Gene was a veteran of the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1946. Serving in WWII, he was awarded 11 Battle Stars while aboard three navy ships: USS Wilson, USS Wasp, and USS Hughes. He was employed by the New York State Department of Corrections as a correctional officer from 1947 to 1971 at *Eastern New York Correctional Facility*, Napanoch. He also worked at Nepera Chemical Plant in Harriman from 1975 to 1981, and the Ulster County Sheriffs Department.



Gene was very active as a union official while at *Eastern Correctional Facility* and was very active in local politics. He was elected to three terms as *Ellenville School Board* member, was a past president of the school board, and elected to the Ulster County Legislature.

He was a 48-year Democratic Committeeman in the Town of Wawarsing, member and past commander of *Cook-Taylor Post #111 American Legion* in Ellenville and member of *Wawarsing Lodge #582 F&AM*, Ellenville. He was also cub master of *Boy Scout Pack #28* in Ellenville, active with the *Ellenville Little League*, member of the Town of Wawarsing Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Wawarsing Cable Commission, and a communicant of the *Church of St. Mary's and St. Andrew's*, Ellenville.

When the seriousness of Gene's condition was realized, local village, town, and county officials acted to recognize his many accomplishments and contributions to the community while he could still appreciate the honors. The accompanying photos were taken at Gene's home March 3rd and 5th as local officials, friends, and family gathered to present Gene with plaques, letters, and commendations. March 5th was declared "*Eugene Houck Day*" in the Town of Wawarsing.

Viewing was at *Loucks Funeral Home*; a Mass of Christian Burial was held at *St. Mary's & St. Andrew's*; burial was at *Fantinekill Cemetery*, Ellenville.

Top, left: Among those visiting were, standing left to right, Town of Wawarsing Supervisor James Dolaway, Chamber President Mary Sheeley, son and Town Councilman Terry Houck, Town Councilman Ray Lux, Ellenville Village Manager Elliott Auerbach, Village Trustee Efrain Lopez, Ulster County Legislator Joseph Stoeckeler, Jr., and Wawarsing Republican Party Chair Robert Kuhlmann; seated with Houck, companion Doris Embree, and Ellenville Mayor Jeff Kaplan.

Center, left: Legislator Stoeckeler presents former legislator Houck with a "Pride of Ulster County" award given by the Ulster County Legislature.

Bottom, left: Mayor Kaplan presents a plaque from the Ellenville Village Board. A plaque from the Wawarsing Town Board, unavailable March 3rd, was presented by Supervisor Dolaway at a later date.

Top, right: Wawarsing Democratic Party Chair Sylvia Kalipolites, standing, presents a plaque from the Town of Wawarsing Democratic Party Committee.

(Photos for Wawarsing.Net by Steven Krulick)

