

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

EMMA P. HENDRICKSON
EULOGY

WHEN YOU THINK OF JUNIOR BOWLING IN MORRIS COUNTY, YOU THINK OF EMMA P. HENDRICKSON. EMMA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING THE MORRIS COUNTY JUNIOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION IN 1962. SHE WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THAT ASSOCIATION, HAVING SERVED AS DIRECTOR, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND IT'S SECRETARY-TREASURER, FOR OVER 40 YEARS. EMMA ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED PRACTICALLY ALL OF ADULT/JUNIOR ROLL-OFF TOURNAMENTS AND ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS FOR THE JUNIOR BOWLERS OF MORRIS COUNTY. EMMA CONTINUOUSLY SUPPORTED THE JUNIOR PROGRAM. EMMA WAS A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR FOR ADULTS AND JUNIORS FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, PROVIDING INSTRUCTION AT MANY OF OUR ASSOCIATION'S BOWLING CENTERS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

I'D LIKE TO JUST GIVE YOU A BRIEF BACKGROUND ON WHY WE WERE SO LUCKY TO HAVE HAD A EMMA HENDRICKSON AND WHAT SHE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGHOUT HER LIFETIME. EMMA BEGAN HER BOWLING CAREER IN 1945 AFTER MOVING TO MORRIS COUNTY FROM WHITE PLAINS, NY AND HAD BEEN BOWLING EVERY SINCE. SHE WAS A LEAGUE OFFICER IN PRACTICALLY EVERY LEAGUE SHE BOWLED IN AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING MANY OF THOSE LEAGUES IN THE MORRIS COUNTY AREA.

EARLY IN HER CAREER, EMMA MET ANDY VARIPAPPA, FAMOUS FOR HIS TRICK BOWLING SHOTS, AND HE INVITE ONE OF THE BOWLERS THERE TO BOWL WITH HIM FOR A WARM-UP GAME BEFORE ONE OF HIS EXIBITIONS. EMMA NOT ONLY STEPPED UP TO THE CHALLENGE, BUT WENT ON TO A ROLL A 187 TO VARIPAPPA'S 168!

EMMA WAS A MEMBER OF THE MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION FOR OVER 50 YEARS (58 YEARS TO BE EXACT), SERVING AS IT'S PRESIDENT FOR 11 YEARS, AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR 4 YEARS AND THEN AS A LIFE MEMBER. EMMA CONDUCTED MANY CHARITY TOURNAMENTS SPONSORED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY WBA FOR THE BENEFIT OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS CANCER, HEART, MENTAL HEALTH, MARCH OF DIMES, THE NJ FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND, SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND THE MORRIS COUNTY EASTER SEAL SOCIETY, ALL PRIOR TO BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE MORRIS COUNTY WBA, MORE THAN 41 YEARS AGO. BECAUSE OF EMMA'S HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, THE MORRIS COUNTY WBA UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO NAME THEIR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN HER HONOR AND IS PRESENTED EACH SPRING TO A DESERVING COUNTY YOUTH. EMMA IS NOT ONLY A MEMBER OF THE MORRIS COUNTY WBA HALL-OF-FAME, INDUCTED IN 1982 FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, BUT THE MORRIS COUNTY MEN'S B.A. HALL-OF-FAME AS WELL, INDUCTED IN 2004, FOR HER SPECIAL SERVICE TO ALL THE JUNIOR BOWLERS OF OUR COUNTY AND THE STATE WBA HALL-OF-FAME, FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE, INDUCTED IN 1995. IN 2003, EMMA WON THE PRESTIGIOUS METROPOLITAN BOWLING WRITERS "*SPECIAL SERVICE*" AWARD.

ON THE STATE LEVEL, EMMA HAS SERVED AS A DIRECTOR OF THE NJ STATE WBA FOR 6 YEARS, TWO OF WHICH SERVING AS IT'S VICE PRESIDENT. EMMA ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MANY STATE TOURNAMENTS. WHILE SERVING ON THE STATE BOARD, EMMA WAS APPOINTED TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION'S PSYCHO-MERCY FUND COMMITTEE. THIS FUND BENEFITED THE PATIENTS AT THE GREYSTONE PARK PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS. THROUGH FUNDS GATHERED FROM CHARITY TOURNAMENTS, EMMA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DIRECTING FUNDS TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A MINI-BUS WHICH WAS DONATED TO THE MARLBORO STATE HOSPITAL. OTHER SUCH FUNDS RESULTED IN REFURBISHING THE NOW DEFUNCT FOUR BOWLING LANES AT GREYSTONE AND PURCHASING A BOWLING BALL CLEANING MACHINE AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC PIN SETTERS FOR THOSE

HOSPITAL LANES. IN ADDITION, EMMA HAD SERVED ON THE NJ STATE YABA, NOW YOUTH ASSOCIATION BOARD, AS IT'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2 YEARS AND SGT-AT-ARMS FOR 1 YEAR. EMMA WAS ELECTED A DELEGATE TO THE STATE YABA (YOUTH) MEETINGS FOR OVER 32 YEARS.

ADDITIONALLY, EMMA SAID TO IT THAT MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MADE TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES IN BUILDING A BAND SHELL AT GREYSTONE PARK, WHICH IN EMMA'S OWN WORDS, "***THIS WAS HER ULTIMATE ACCOMPLISHMENT***".

ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, EMMA SET A RECORD LAST YEAR WHEN SHE PARTICIPATED IN HER 52 CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF BOWLING IN THE USBC NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. IN FACT, IN 2009, WHEN SHE BOWLED IN HER 50TH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT, AT THE AGE OF 100, SHE BECAME QUITE A CELEBRITY. SHE WAS INVITED TO THE "***LIVE WITH REGIS & KELLY***" SHOW TO CHALLENGE REGIS TO A GAME OF BOWLING, WHICH SHE WON! SHE ALSO WON AND RECEIVED THE REXELLY "***SENSATIONAL SENIOR***" AWARD FROM REGIS. IN ADDITION SHE APPEARED WITH MARTHA STEWART IN 2010 IN A SEGMENT FOR "***LIVING LONGER***". AND JUST THIS PAST YEAR, EMMA WAS AN INVITED GUEST TO REGIS' LAST TV PROGRAM.

IN DECEMBER OF 2011, EMMA OFFICIALLY RETIRED FROM BOWLING. A VERY SAD DAY FOR ALL OF US.

THAT'S PROBABLY AS BRIEFLY AS I CAN GIVE YOU ON EMMA'S BACKGROUND. TRYING TO COVER 102 YEARS IN A FEW PAGES IS NOT EASY. AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE WAS PRACTICALLY NOTHING EMMA DID NOT TRY AND SUCCEED IN DOING THROUGHOUT HER CAREER IN OUR COUNTY AND STATE. HER DRIVING FORCE FOR OVER 56 YEARS IN MORRIS COUNTY AND HER INFLUENCE WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY YOUTH FOR OVER 40 YEARS HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING OUR JUNIOR

BOWLERS INTO THE ADULT BOWLERS WE NOW HAVE TODAY IN ALL THREE OF OUR COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS.

HER DEDICATION TO TEACHING THESE JUNIOR BOWLERS THE RULES AND ETIQUETTE OF BOWLING HAS MADE MANY OF THESE JUNIOR BOWLERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF OUR HALLS-OF-FAME, BOTH COUNTY AND STATE, INTO WHAT THEY ARE TODAY. SHE NEVER STOPPED HELPING OTHERS. SHE HAS BEEN A MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER TO HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF MORRIS COUNTY JUNIOR BOWLERS. OUR ANNUAL HALL-OF-FAME DINNER THIS YEAR WILL NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT EMMA THERE TO GREET AND SPEND TIME WITH OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER. SHE DEDICATED HER WHOLE LIFE TO FAMILY AND BOWLING! FOR THIS AND FOR MANY OTHER REASONS, WE WERE VERY PROUD AND HONORED TO HAVE HAD EMMA AS A LOVING FRIEND, FELLOW BOWLER AND SWEETHEART! SHE WILL BE SORELY MISSED.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU EMMA, AND MAY YOU FOREVER REST IN PEACE.