

## At 90, Kennedy public servant celebrating 47 years on the job and counting

When Ann Garofalo was born in 1928, the world was quite a different place. The first air-conditioned office building had just opened in San Antonio, Texas; Bing Crosby had recorded "Ole Man River;" the Republican National Convention had nominated Herbert Hoover for president; and the Great Depression hadn't yet begun.

Garofalo was born in the West Park area of Stowe Township and she moved to Kennedy Township in 1961. She spent her early career years learning the business of photography, as she describes it.

"I spent a number of years with the then very well-established Mahan & Wright Portrait Studio on Chartiers Avenue," she recalls.

Garofalo also indulged in decorating her home, something she continuously does to this day.

"Decorating my home has always been a favorite hobby and everyone will tell you it is, and has been, my 'white house' redone, many times!" she says.

During that time, she raised three children - sons Chris and Vinnie, and daughter, Celeste. Today, she counts five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren among her brood, all of whom Garofalo says keep in touch.

Garofalo didn't know it back then but she would eventually piece together a long career as a public servant. She started when



Ann Garofalo receives a commendation from state Rep. Anita Kulik.

she was approaching 43 and has spent the past 47 years serving Kennedy Township. Now at 90 years old, she's still serving.

Garofalo joined the township's staff in 1971 as a clerk. Two decades later, she assumed the position of township secretary. When she retired from that position in 1996, Garofalo stayed on, helping to maintain the township's records, as well as providing back-up support to Kennedy's secretary and assistant secretary. Twenty-two years later, Garofalo is still providing support, albeit working part-time now that she's a nonagenarian.

When Garofalo retired in 1996 as a full-time employee, she indulged in her passion for travel, visiting many places around the U.S. and taking numerous bus tours to destinations far and wide.

She says about her time with Kennedy, "Working in a public capacity has been quite interesting. In serving the public you meet many truly nice people...other employees I have worked with have become dear and lifelong friends."

She notes township manager Jerry Orsini's appreciation of her ability to find lots of old records. Garofalo has also been there to help Kennedy treasurer Mel Weinstein when he needs something from the archives.

To honor her service, the State House of Representatives presented Garofalo with an official citation in September. State Representative Anita Kulik sponsored the citation, which was signed by Mike Turzai, Speaker of the House.

Says Kulik, "Ann is an amazing woman, who has been a role model for me for 25 years. She has shown me what it takes to be a woman working in local government, which is often a man's world. The knowledge she has shared with me has helped me in Harrisburg."

Garofalo expresses her appreciation, too, adding, "I must acknowledge the thoughtfulness of State Representative Anita Kulik and the honor of a State Citation - and her years of public service but also for her kindness to the office staff during her years as a board member."

Adds Garofalo, "I hope to continue working as long as they need me. My claim to fame, I've outlasted a number of commissioners!"