

550 honorees for SERVing

Project SERVE will honor 550 older persons between the ages of 60 and 95 for volunteer service on Staten Island in special award ceremonies in the Columbian Lyceum, West Brighton, Monday between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Mrs. Patricia Reilly Hitt, assistant secretary of community and field services for the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), will deliver the keynote address in the afternoon and tour Willowbrook State School at 11 a.m. to observe SERVE volunteers at work.

The entire day's activities have been titled Tribute Day.

Mrs. Bernice L. Bernstein, HEW regional director, will present the awards. James J. O'Malley will deliver greetings from the state Office for the Aging. He is its deputy director.

Other guests will include Elmer W. Smith, regional commissioner of HEW's social and rehabilitation services, and Miss Eleanor Morris, associate regional commissioner of HEW's aging, social and rehabilitation service.

Caspar W. Rittenberg, chairman of the SERVE subcommittee on aging for the Community Service Society, will act as chairman for the affair.

Gold pins will be presented to volunteers with 100 or more hours of service. Volunteers are now serving in 24 Staten Island agencies and have amassed more than 140,000 hours of service. Volunteer directors of Island agencies where SERVE volunteers are active also will be honored.



Mrs. Patricia R. Hitt . . . main speaker

Scozzari, 84, who packages bloodmobile kits for the Red Cross.

SERVE's project director, Mrs. Janet Sainer, explained, "SERVE volunteers have brought their varied experience and abilities, their warm-heartedness and desire to help to jobs that needed doing in their community. They have shown us that older persons represent a tremendous resource which should not be wasted."

SERVE (Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience) was started as a demonstration project on Staten Island in 1966 by the Community Service Society of New York and was partially

funded by HEW's Administration on Aging.

Its purpose was to give retired older men and women a new role and a new interest in life through volunteer service benefiting the community. Since then, the program has received statewide and national support.

The success of SERVE on the Island led to the establishment of a statewide program. Smaller SERVE programs, based on the Island model, are now operating in 16 locations throughout the state.

SERVE also was the model for recent federal legislation establishing a national Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

BOTH IN 70s

Two SERVE volunteers, both in their 70s, have set a record for the most hours of service rendered — over 2,000 hours each. Mrs. Marion Bennett, 77, worked as a volunteer at Willowbrook for several years and now supervises a Mending-for-Willowbrook group at the Stapleton Senior Center. Henry Hansen, 72, with 2,200 hours of service, is a retired mechanic who works as a volunteer in the Willowbrook machine shop.

The two oldest SERVE volunteers are Mrs. Cajo Brawley, 95, a resident of Eger Lutheran Home, Egbertville, who prepares materials for the occupational therapy department of Willowbrook and the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Clifton, and Joseph