

FOCUS

Honor SERVE volunteers

A number of Island officials -- including Borough President Robert Connor -- took time out last week to honor more than 800 SERVE volunteers.

SERVE, which has originated the concept of placing senior citizens in volunteer jobs nationally here on Staten Island, rolled out the red carpet for its volunteers.

"They are marvelous people, all of them," said Caspar W. Rittenberg, vice chairman of SERVE's parent organization, the Community Service Society's Committee on Aging. "They are fantastically hard workers."

The volunteers, sporting red carnations, heard officials from Willowbrook State School, Sea View Hospital and Home and the United States Public Health Service Hospital cite them for a significant contribution to the operations of the Island facilities.

"You have brought love, joy and warmth into our wards," Dr. Miodrag Ristich, director of Willowbrook State School said.

At the presentation at the Columbian Lyceum, Eleanor Love, a resident of the Eger Nursing Home, was cited for the most service with over 4,500 hours of volunteer work to her credit.

Cited for over 4,000 hours was Henry Hansen; for over 3,500 hours, Hanna Sandbeck; over 3,000 hours, Fannie Carannante and Suzanne Cavanaugh; over 2,000 hours, Ethel Brown, Linda Cairo, Enoch Nilsen, Ethel-Pollack, and Grace Steen; over 1,500 hours, Millie Avignone, Leonka Germer, Edith Hansen, Gwallys Knudson, Lucille Navickas, Klara Olsen, Sadie Romeo and Christian Voss.

Borough President Connor, citing SERVE members for "magnificent service to the Island," presented these top volunteers with awards.