

PEOPLE

A sitting tribute: Alma Lee Loy bench dedicated

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

Indian River County's most treasured resident, Alma Lee Loy, was honored last Friday morning by members of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the unveiling of a bench in her honor at A.W. Young Park, a hidden gem located on the Indian River Lagoon at Vero Isles overlooking the bridge that bears her name.

The bench dedication was tied to last November's National Philanthropy Day Award celebration when Loy was presented with a special AFP President's Award for the numerous and varied contributions she has made to the community.

"She has shared her time and talent with countless groups and organizations including community, civic and cultural clubs, committees, councils, her church congregation, the county commission; and those are just the C's," said Monique Walker, development coordinator at [Indian River State College](#) and the current AFP president.



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BENCH DEDICATION CAPTIONS

1. Alma Lee Loy on her bench. 2. Back: Shannon McGuire Bowman, Carol Kanarek, Maureen Nicolace, Ann Marie McCrystal, Jessica Schmitt, Julia Keenan. Front: Monique Walker, Alma Lee Loy, Kerry Bartlett and Tom Guy.

"It's no wonder she has five B's named in her honor – a building, a bridge, a beach, a brick and now a bench."

Walker told the intimate gathering that included Loy's brother-in-law Tom Guy, AFP board and committee members and friends that she had the pleasure of working with Loy through her involvement with the IRSC Foundation Board and when Loy was honored as IRSC's 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year.

"Alma Lee is truly one of the most sincere, kind-hearted and humble people I have ever met," said Walker, adding that Loy has given every fiber of her being to the community and has devoted her life to preserving its unique history. "Alma Lee has dedicated herself to so many causes, but never in a self-serving manner. That's because she always has someone else in mind – the next generation. I have no doubt that future generations who sit on this bench will continue to be inspired by the example you've set to make the world a better place, Alma Lee style."

In her soft-spoken, gracious manner, Loy thanked everyone for the honor and noted, "A.W. Young Park has had a warm spot in my heart since its beginning. The view of the river from your thoughtful gift will always be beautiful and soothing, when you need to stop a moment and enjoy God's world."

Loy noted that Young was her friend as a teenager and she admired him for the many contributions he made to the creation and development of Vero Beach and Indian River County.

"My best memories are visiting him in his later days in his office, located in the basement of the Del Mar Hotel," said Loy. "I hope my participation in philanthropic efforts in this area will be a beacon to leave a legacy of philanthropy." ■