Suffolk County's Senior Volunteer of the Year

On May 17, 2018, Slava Vero received Suffolk County's Senior Volunteer of the Year award. Here are excerpts of her acceptance speech that she gave to the audience of over 500 people at the Villa Lombardi:

Thank you Legislator Spencer and the Suffolk County Legislators for presenting me with this prestigious award.

I am proud to accept it with humility and honor.

To better understand what this award means to me I would like to take a moment of your time and go back into history:

As a child the Nazis had decided that I didn't deserve to live. BUT I DID!

Later, the Communists declared that I didn't deserve a higher education. BUT I DID!

Then I arrived in the United States and was free to do anything I felt capable of doing, AND I DID!

To paraphrase the famous Jimmy Stewart movie, "I had a Wonderful life".

And then at the blink of an eye, I became a senior, placed in the category of "OLDHOOD" and was told that computers were not supposed to be part of my life.

But again, I defied the odds I did learn.

But, I did not achieve all the success alone.

It is a community effort.

My thanks go to the Suffolk County Legislators and elected officials that support our mission. I thank FSL for their support along with the entire Board of Directors.

I consider the FSL Board and administration and the volunteers that form the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center my extended family.

It is their dedication, age understanding, and of course their hard work and cooperation that makes us all start the day with new hopes and initiatives. Our volunteers are known for the three I's Innovation, Initiative and Inspiration.

I would like to ask the members of the FSL Board of Directors, administrative staff and last but not least our valiant volunteers that are here, to stand up and be recognized as I am being recognized.

I accept this award on behalf of all of them-thank you for letting me be a better person and letting me be still the person that says "I DID!!!"