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Roosevelt Care Center at Edison's Newest Centenarian

EDISON – Nothing says milestone like a century's worth of birthdays.

Roosevelt Care Center at Edison resident, Eva Kondratick, hit that mark Monday.

This former Woodbridge resident was a first-generation American born in Woodmere, N.Y. in 1915.

The daughter of Austrian immigrants, Kondratick came into her youth during the Great Depression and held fast to her blue-collared roots.

“She had to quit school in the 10th grade because of the crash,” Kondratick's daughter, Lillian Catena said. “She quit school and worked cleaning houses to bring money in.”

Romance blossomed between Kondratick and her husband, John, after the two met while working at an Upstate New York button factory. The pair married and eventually settled in Irvington, N.J. to rear their family. They migrated south following their retirements to enjoy their twilight years in Florida.

Prior to her husband's death in 1997, Kondratick shared 55 years of wedded bliss.

“She's very strong-willed and very strong in her faith,” Catena said.

Roosevelt hosted Kondratick's birthday party Saturday, when Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac stopped in to present a proclamation to the township's newest centenarian.

“It was lovely,” Kondratick said. “The party and the room were so nice. There were white lace table cloths and flowers.”

Thursday's inclement weather delayed the visit of some family members, who have been travelling in from other regions of the country.

“It'll just be an extended party then,” said Roosevelt Licensed Administrator and Director of Resident Care Dr. Frank Damiani to the birthday girl.

When asked her secret to longevity, Kondratick took the elusive route, ribbing her audience with the simple response of “I'm not telling.”





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