

# NEWS



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Orange County Executive  
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## **05-12-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA**

Sadly, last week we saw the passing of two seniors who were notable in our community – Anna Ferris and Elizabeth “Bettye” Potts.

At 111 years old, Anna was Orange County’s oldest resident and verified as the 56<sup>th</sup> oldest person in the world. She is fondly remembered by the staff of Orange County Parks Department and Office for the Aging for her participation in the Senior Games. Always a good sport, Anna participated in many events, including track and field competitions last year with the help of her grandson who was also a participant. Her zest and enthusiasm will be missed by many.

Bettye Potts was a great friend to so many both in Orange and Sullivan Counties. So aptly described in her obituary, Betty was a volunteer extraordinaire with hardly a non-profit or charitable organization in the area that did not benefit from her dedication, fund-raising expertise, and boundless energy. She was the first recipient of the Girl Scout and YWCA’s Orange County Women of Achievement Bobby Lahey award for volunteerism. She served 24 years on the advisory board for the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, was a Vice President of the Middletown NAACP, and even wrote a booklet entitled “Orange County, Know Your County” to name just a few of Betty’s many, many community service commitments. In recognition of her many accomplishments, I had the pleasure of proclaiming “Elizabeth Bettye Potts Day” in Orange County a few years back.

On behalf of all Orange County residents, I extend my deepest condolences to the families of both Anna and Bettye.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana  
County Executive