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St. Charles Hospital presented The Honorable Jeanne Garant, former mayor of the Village of Port Jefferson, with the Van Tuyl Community Service award on Monday, November 2. The award is dedicated to Mitzi Van Tuyl, a member of the St. Charles Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, in honor of her unwavering support of St. Charles Hospital, her thousands of hours of volunteer service to the hospital, and as a tribute to her benevolent spirit.

Mrs. Garant is a well known figure in Port Jefferson as well as on the County government level and the state level. Almost immediately after moving to Port Jefferson she opened Jeanne Garant Real Estate – the beginning of her nearly 48 years of service to the Village she loves so dearly. Her two year term as President of the Chamber of Commerce led to her involvement in Village government. She served three years as a trustee of the Village before running and winning the race for Mayor. She served three terms as Mayor of the Village of Port Jefferson. During her tenure as Mayor, she succeeded in acquiring more than 8 million dollars in grant monies for the funding of projects such as the development of Port Jefferson’s Waterfront Promenade and Harborfront Park, and the design and construction of the Village Center. Also during her tenure as Mayor, Jeanne began one of the most popular and successful events in the Three Village Community, the annual Port Jefferson Dickens Festival, a 3-day event held in December that attracts individuals from across Long Island and Connecticut.

Jeanne’s community service extends well beyond her service in local government. She spearheaded the movement to place Port Jefferson’s maritime history on the State and National Register, served on Governor Pataki’s Task Force on local government reform, and served as Planning Commissioner of the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area project. Always a devoted patron of the arts, Jeanne established the SOMA (South on Main Arts District), and has served on the Theater Three’s Board of Directors and currently serves as a member of the New York State Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Education Advisory Council.

In 2007, Jeanne became a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Charles Hospital and now serves on the Suffolk County Regional Board for Catholic Health Services for St. Charles Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, and St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center. She brings enthusiasm and energy to the Board of Trustees as well as her broad knowledge base in local and state government. She has embraced the role of Board member and is always willing and able to represent St. Charles at community functions.

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