

30th Anniversary Festival Opening & Dedication (1997) — Heritage Village

Summary

This video documents Heritage Village's "Recognition Day" ceremony on August 12, 1997, held in advance of "Festival 30," a ten-day celebration marking the community's 30th anniversary. Heritage Village, in Southbury, Connecticut, was the first condominium organized under Connecticut law. The event, staged before a large audience of residents ("villagers"), honored guests, and the families and associates who planned, financed, built, and brought the community to life. After the national anthem, the program features official greetings, the presentation of a gubernatorial proclamation and a General Assembly citation, and extended tributes to the developers, architects, town officials, employees, and original residents.

The proceedings are led by emcee and Festival 30 co-chair Dr. Alvin Lasser. Speakers include David Balsza, president of the Heritage Village Master Association; Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell; State Representative Arthur O'Neal; Southbury First Selectman Alfia Candido; Ronald Borge (son of entertainer Victor Borg, whose former estate became the site); developer brothers Henry, Otto, and Louis Paparazzo; project planning director Bill Walker; former Governor (and former Congressman) Thomas Meskill; former Southbury First Selectmen Ed Veh, Sam Green, and Mike Kenny; resident-historian Mildred Crocker; Glenn Mars (representing his father, maintenance staffer Vern Mars); longtime employee Herby Moran; Master Association attorney Carl Peterson; and Festival 30 co-chair Alice Gross. Numerous additional residents, employees, merchants, and officials are acknowledged from the stage and audience. The garbled opening anthem and a few brief audience interjections appear from unidentified voices.

Transcript

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Would you please remain standing for the national anthem? [National anthem sung.] Now you'll have to listen to one of us from up here play music. Mouth music. It's my pleasure and privilege to give you David Balsza, the president of the Heritage Village Master Association. Mr. Balsza.

David Balsza: Thank you, Dr. Lasser. It's a pleasure for me to welcome all the honorees, fellow villagers, and their friends to Recognition Day. Our speaker today is our Lieutenant Governor from the great state of Connecticut, Mrs. Jodi Rell. Mrs. Rell is Connecticut's 105th Lieutenant Governor. She's the first Republican to hold the office in 24 years and is the first female Lieutenant Governor in the state's history. As Lieutenant Governor, Mrs. Rell is a member of the Yale Corporation and the State Finance Advisory Committee, as well as presiding over the State Senate as its president. She is chairman of the Prison Overcrowding Commission and the Connecticut Progress Council. She also serves as a member of the Governor's Law Enforcement Council. In 1995, Mrs. Rell established the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Mandate Reform, and as part of that commission's work visited over 101 communities and 169 municipalities discussing state mandate matters. Mrs. Rell has been asked by Governor Rowland to assist in the development of the state's economic plan. Before being elected Lieutenant Governor, Jodi Rell served as deputy minority leader in the Connecticut House of Representatives. She was first elected in 1984 and was reelected four times. Mrs. Rell is active in the National Order of Women Legislators, which includes former and present women legislators from all 50 states and territories. She is a past national president of that group, and in 1995 was honored, along with Diane Sawyer and Helen Thomas, at the National Press Club in

Washington, DC, and is a recipient of their prestigious leadership award. Lieutenant Governor Rell is a former vice chairman of the Brookfield Republican Town Committee and is a member and past president of the Brookfield Women's Club. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Regional YMCA for Western Connecticut and a member of the Brookfield Business and Professional Women's Association — a native of Norfolk, Virginia, but today a true Connecticut Yankee. Will you please welcome Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell to the podium.

Lt. Gov. Jodi Rell: Thank you. Thank you all very much. I have to tell you that that bio is probably longer than my speech is going to be, so you'll be pleased to know that. I also want to share with you, as I came in, I was indeed very honored to hear "Hail to the Chief," but do me a favor and please don't tell the Governor. Wouldn't that be right, Governor Meskill? I would also point out that I am not Connecticut's first female Lieutenant Governor. Eunice Groark, my predecessor, certainly was, but I am Connecticut's first female Republican Lieutenant Governor. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to be here with you today. As many of you know, I live in one of your neighboring towns, right across — really right down the road in Brookfield. And Heritage Village holds a very special place in my heart. First of all, I love to come here shopping. Who doesn't like to shop? And I know I saw a few men back there raise their hands when I said that. But I like to shop. I don't simply have enough time anymore. But for years, it's been my favorite place to go. And it's also one of those favorite places of mine that I love to come. I used to take my mom here for lunch and show her around the village, because I have so many near and dear friends here, people who have sold their homes in and around my town and bought over at Heritage Village. I consider it a part of home to me as well, because it's a nice place. It's a community. It is the kind of atmosphere that says it's all of New England. It's all of southern tradition as well. It's all of what brings everybody so close together and makes a community really part of the home, or the home part of the community. I would also tell you that it is the place that over the years I've been able to bring my children and go for rides when they were little, take them through the woods and see the beautiful ducks on the ponds and things like that. And this is part of what I like to brag about with Heritage Village. But more importantly, I have to share with you that I happened to be sitting in an airport not so many months ago, reading a book, trying to look like I was oblivious to the world, and someone approached me and said, "Did anybody tell you you look a lot like the Lieutenant Governor in Connecticut?" I said, "I'm prettier than she is." But anyway, I said, "I am the Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut." And they said, "Oh, let me tell you about a beautiful place there. It's called Heritage Village." And I sort of grinned from ear to ear. And the lady said to me, "You've heard of it?" I said, "I think I've been there. It's sort of nestled in the woods over in a little town called Southbury." She said, "Oh, yes. My mother's planning on moving there." And we spent the next 15 minutes talking about Heritage Village. Ladies and gentlemen, when you hear those kinds of comments coming from an airport many, many miles from home, you know that Heritage Village truly has arrived, as they say. People are talking about this wonderful place all across our great nation. Now, our Governor could not be here today. In fact, many of you know that one of the functions of the Lieutenant Governor is to fill in in the Governor's absence. Now, we could ask Governor Meskill about his lieutenant governor filling in in his absence, but we'll save those stories for another day. I want to share with you — the Governor did send a proclamation, and I'd like to read it to you. It's an official statement by His Excellency John G. Rowland, Governor:

"Whereas Heritage Village was the first condominium organized under Connecticut law and is the oldest condominium in the state of Connecticut; and whereas Heritage Village is the largest residential condominium in Connecticut and has received numerous national awards for its architectural designs; and whereas Heritage Village has been selected numerous times as one of the top 20 retirement communities in the United States by New Choices magazine and has been included in the 50 best retirement communities in America; and whereas Heritage Village has attracted residents from all walks of life and all parts of the world; and whereas Heritage

Village has contributed to the economic vitality and cultural diversity of the town of Southbury and the state of Connecticut; therefore, I, John G. Rowland, Governor of the state of Connecticut, do hereby offer warmest greetings and best wishes as Heritage Village celebrates its 30th anniversary. Signed, Governor John G. Rowland."

Ladies and gentlemen, let me add to that: happy anniversary. Thank you.

David Balsza: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to introduce Representative Arthur O'Neal.

Rep. Arthur O'Neal: Did you notice how much shorter the introduction for me was? I want to thank you for inviting me, and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to speak with you very, very briefly. The first thing is that I have a citation here. It was introduced into the General Assembly by myself and Senator Louis DeLuca, and it says that "be it hereby known to all that the Connecticut General Assembly offers its sincerest congratulations to Heritage Village in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of your community. The entire membership extends its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for continued success." It's given this 12th day of August 1997, and it's signed by the president pro tem of the senate, the speaker of the house, and the secretary of the state. And I hope you will find an appropriate place to hang this citation so that it will be a thing that you can remember and look upon in the future. If I could just briefly comment — and I know we have a very large group of people here, and if we all speak for five or ten minutes we'll be here for two or three hours — I was reading an article in the newspaper about the 30th anniversary a few weeks ago, and the comment that was made (and I hope I don't step on anybody's lines) that was in that newspaper article was that originally this land was purchased with the intent of putting in a housing subdivision, single-family houses, but the market wasn't really that great for single-family houses. And they looked at the situation and decided, maybe we could try something new and different and innovative, and that's how Heritage Village was born. It was born of a set of people who were willing to take risks, and of a town that was willing to take risks and go ahead with doing something that had never been done in Connecticut and was seldom done anywhere else in the country at that time, and a group of people who were willing to come here and take risks to live in a place that was brand new and was a wholly new kind of place to live and a way of living. And everyone here that was involved with that, from the town, from the developers and the residents, were all risk-takers willing to try something new. And I think that was perhaps the most outstanding thing about the entire Heritage Village experience, that it's a constantly new, experimental type of thing. I want to congratulate you all for your success, and hopefully I'll be back here in another 30 years.

David Balsza: On behalf of all villagers, present and in the future, we accept these proclamations with love. We'll find a cherished place to display them, for the present generation and for all future generations. Thank you. About a year and a half ago, a few villagers had the idea of a 30th birthday celebration for Heritage Village in the year 1997. Two in particular breathed life into the idea, and Festival 30. During the ensuing year and a half, and including today, they gave of their time, their patience, creativity, imagination, and organizational skills. Their love for Heritage Village and their fellow villagers assured the success of Festival 30 as a wonderful celebration of us. Honored guests, fellow villagers, friends, I'd like you to welcome to the podium the co-chairs of Festival 30, Mrs. Alice Gross and Dr. Alvin Lasser.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: When the Governor walked in and everyone stood up, I thought about my friend who was a judge in Middletown who entered into a second marriage. After they had been married for a couple of years, he said, "Why don't you ever come and see me working in the court?" And she said, "Sure, I'll do that." And she came in, and she was sitting there, and all of a sudden someone said, "Would you please stand?" and announced the judge, and everybody

stood up, and she sat. She said, "I wash his dirty handkerchiefs. I'm not gonna stand." Thank you, Mr. Balsza. This is indeed a pleasure. I get to introduce some really special people today. We're here to celebrate a 30th anniversary of a unique community. And on this platform there are people who had the imagination to dream big and the courage and tenacity to bring that dream to reality. My mother told me I should dream big, but not this big. These are people who planned, financed, and built Heritage Village, envisioned a place of unsurpassed beauty in the rolling hills of southwestern Connecticut, and they built a condominium development that won awards for its outstanding architecture and landscape design and really became a model to emulate in other communities. And this afternoon, we beneficiaries of their dream and the reality that has become, are here to honor and to thank them. But all they gave us were silent homes and a lovely landscape. Someone had to breathe life into it. They were dreamers, too. They dreamt of creating a community for vibrant elders with a rare collection of social, cultural, and recreational activities. The old maxim we've all heard — you know, you don't buy a house in Heritage Village, you buy a way of life — is awfully corny, but so true. Today we thank the dwindling group of dreamers and doers, the ones who preceded us, for getting this thing going. I want to acknowledge the presence of Representative Arthur O'Neal, and thank you for providing us with that citation. When he told me that he had a citation for me, I was worried I may have parked wrong. Southbury's first selectman, Alfia Candido, is here. Alfia, would you stand, please? Did you want to say something to these people?

Alfia Candido: I'll yield to Arthur.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Okay. Well, we thank you both for taking the time out of your busy lives to come and celebrate the anniversary with us. I believe Mr. Candido was on the planning or zoning board when this project was on the boards. Is that true?

Alfia Candido: Yes.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: The history of Heritage Village begins with the land. The site we now occupy formerly belonged to the famed Dane Victor Borg, and his son Ronald has come here to celebrate with us. This is a sentimental journey for him, although he's been back a few times. Would you please stand, Mr. Borge? We won't ask you to play the piano. Before he gets to say anything, I want Mrs. Borge to stand up and face the audience. I thought you'd like to see that bit of decoration.

Ronald Borge: It's been some time since I've stood in this room. The last time I was here, I believe it was — turn this off — it was a freezer and a bird-processing plant, in which I used to occasionally sneak in a frog through the production line, or a turtle, just to see if the people were online. I go back into Southbury 47 years, so I've been here a bit longer than some of the other people here, I'm sure. And I was told that it was supposed to be a retirement village, and I have not seen any old people yet, so that's probably a misnomer. Growing up here was a special treat because, well, we didn't have all the buildings, of course, and we had a little blinking light in the downtown. We basically were the fire department for Southbury. We had a little Jeep that was a fire truck, and I remember occasionally taking that, unauthorized, and driving around town with it. But it was a wonderful place to grow up, and it's a wonderful place to continue growing, as you all well know. My father has written a little how-do-you-do, and it's from Victor Borg, Greenwich, Connecticut, August 12th, 1997:

"Dear friends, former neighbors, and all newcomers. It is with great emotion and happy memories that we look back to the time when our family lived in Southbury. We loved the old house and the extraordinary grounds. We never expected so many guests, indeed not permanent ones, but we are glad that the property is being enjoyed by so many residents. To all of you in the village and the community, our family sends heartiest greetings and best wishes for

continued happiness and a commitment to a beautiful Southbury. Cordially, Sanna and Victor Borg."

My friends, thank you.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Absolutely. Now, no one should be that big. Now the real dreamers, the Paparazzo brothers. They've become legends in these parts. Henry, Otto — before I go on, I have a special place in my heart for Otto. On a hot summer day, I always kept a glass in my glove compartment, a drinking glass, and I would come down Lakeview and stop at a place that we labeled Otto's Grotto, where a spring had been brought, piped up, and you could go get a nice cold drink of water. Thanks for that. And Louis is with us. They said that he was the baby in the family, but he's really the oldest. And if you take a good look at them, it's like being cloned. They all have the same face. I think maybe I can get them to say a few words to us. Who would like to start?

Henry Paparazzo: Thank you. Well, one of the things you're going to find out is, we're really good developers, but we're not good speakers. But we'll try. We're certainly honored with what's going on here. And Heritage Village obviously is a very special place for us, and I guess for all of you. And it was an interesting experiment, so to speak. And it took a lot to have it happen. I mean, we had a dream, the brothers and I, and to accomplish that took a lot of people, and I see many of them here today, which is really wonderful, because it's an effort that rolls them from one thing to another before it really gets done and is accomplished in the village. For starters, you know, we had the idea, and we had to sell the idea to a local town. Southbury was a very small town, very quiet town. And here we are with this great idea. We felt it was a good idea anyway. And we have to sell it to this community and tell them, well, all we're going to do is kind of double your population, guys. Don't worry about it. Mr. Candido was on the planning and zoning commission at that time, and we had to convince them that this plan would work. And fortunately, we drew the support of enough people in the community that felt that this would be a good development, would be a good use for this very beautiful piece of land. We knew it for a number of years. We loved this piece of land. We felt that, gee, wonderful things could be done, and finally ended up with the idea of an adult living community. And to convince a town to allow us to do it was not an easy job, because it was obviously a big move, and we had a lot of supporters, and we had a lot of people that didn't support the idea. They weren't totally convinced that what could happen — what were we doing here? It's nice to say that many of the people that were against the village at the time now live here, which is wonderful. So I guess maybe we proved ourselves somewhere along the line. But anyway, we finally managed to get through that approval process. I won't go into all the details on that, but then, you know, here we are. We get a town to approve it, and we got the great idea, and the next thing we have to do is go out and get any money. I don't think Otto had it. Louie didn't have it at the time, and I don't think I had it. So we had to go out and find — this is obviously a major development, a large planned community — and fortunately, Mr. McCann had a sister working at Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company. She was an officer down there, and he convinced her to come up and take a look at this thing, this idea and everything, and was certainly very helpful in convincing the insurance company to allow us to do it, to finance it. They joined into a joint venture. And so then we're at the point now, we got the idea and we have money, and we got to build it, you know. And the support of a lot of people it takes to build it, because you have to put together a team of many people to provide for all kinds of different facets. You're building a whole village, a whole town in a sense. So we had to gather in people, from architect Warren Callister from the West Coast, and we reached around and got all the help we could, because there wasn't this experience in this area. We had to really reach out for ideas and so forth. You know, we kind of steal a little idea here and a little idea there and put them all together. But anyway, we got a really good team together, and then we built it, and local contractors and business people

supported the whole program, participated. We had to grow small companies into bigger companies, whether it was a carpenter or a plumber and so forth. We all grew with the project. We probably, maybe none of us realized the scope of it when we were starting. But as it happens, the village turns out to be — our planning and execution, all the different things, works out very well, and it comes off very well. We're very conscientious of the land and the environment and all those kinds of things. And then, of course, the next step is, we have to bring people into it. And along those lines, our first people that came in here at the village — we couldn't have done better than if we went out and had the privilege to just select people. It was just phenomenal people we were drawn. And the great thing about it was, these were people that wanted to participate in this program. They saw the newness and the experimental part of it. And many of them called themselves the pioneers, the original pioneers, and they were betting on that this thing's going to work and look good, and they were very much participants in what happened and how the village turned out. Because as many ideas as we had, they came in with as many more, and they were good ideas, and it was all very constructive, positive process. And they helped make the village and develop the village and set the stage for the residents and everyone else. And it's worked very well, and we are appreciative of so many people that made the village work. And as I say, many are here today. And our Governor is even here. He was very helpful and helped us promote the village and so forth. Used to play golf once in a while. Huh? Still play, Governor. He's any good. He's better than I am. But it was really an effort from a lot of people to make it work. Three brothers can't do it on their own — and four brothers, one's not here right now. But we thank everybody that made Heritage Village possible. We're proud of it. We hope you are. Thank you.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Alice Gross has a little gift for each of the people, a little memento of this occasion, and she's been handing them out as I go on to the next person. There's a story — I don't know whether the story is apocryphal or not, but they tell a story; I've heard it a number of times — about Otto, that the workmen had put in a foundation very close to a tree, and they suggested to him that they should cut the tree down. And he said, "You don't cut the tree down. Move the foundation." And it's one of the reasons you have such a beautiful village. The ambiance of Heritage Village is second to none. When I first came here, I decided to go up to Vermont to see the color change. And when we got back to the village, we wondered, why did we ever go to Vermont? It's so beautiful here. I wonder whether Otto has a few words for us.

Otto Paparazzo: Thank you. I'll be very brief. I think Henry has brought about the many, many people responsible for the village. It wasn't just the three brothers. It was a whole team, a whole cadre of people. But the most exciting thing, I think, about the village is, we had an opportunity to set a stage and to have this beautiful group of people come and act on a stage and bring out their lives here. I think Heritage Village is an exciting place. It brought a fantastic resource of human resources that made a contribution to any town or any community. And I have to thank all of you for making it work.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Thank you, Louis.

Louis Paparazzo: Thank you. I don't have much to add to that, but one thing I would like to say is that the people that are here, and the people that have come to the village after all the people behind me got together and made it all possible — you have made the village, and you are the village. Thank you again.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Did your mother and father get to come up here and see what you did?

Louis Paparazzo: My mother lived here for a while.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Is that so? Oh, wonderful. Okay. Henry mentioned Curtis McCann and Anne Proper. I wonder if they would stand so we could thank them for their contributions. Anne was

the one on the left. The brothers liked the work of a California architect named Warren Callister, and we can thank Mr. Callister for the rustic look and our flat roofs. Architect Bill Walker, who most of you know, took charge as director of project planning. And I'm going to ask him to stand, and perhaps he'd like to say a few words.

Bill Walker: There really isn't much more that I can add to what Otto and Henry and Louie have already said. I think it was a marvelous confluence of time and material and people and enthusiasm that brought it all together. And of course, the residents, the buyers, were the most important thing. I can't speak for Warren Callister, but I can speak of him. I've known Warren for over 50 years. And I think that he had a tremendous amount of influence, almost a philosophical influence, on Heritage Village, and also a lot of the people who helped put the village together. I'm looking right at Joe Batada right now, who was one of the real spark plugs, and the people who were on the sales staff, and the people who worked so hard in the field, the subcontractors who were so important to the success of the village. And I was just very happy to be a part of the early days of it. Thanks very much. I could only say that of all the years — over 50 — that I've been in the architecture business and in the development building business, the most rewarding times of my professional life were those times that I spent with these guys right over here. And I've never had as much of a sense of accomplishment, either before or since, as I did while I was here at Heritage Village. Thanks so much, all of you who contributed to it.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: I thought that Bill might have something to say about the director of activities here, but he didn't. So let me say it. Sarah Cook was here early on, and took over this job of seeing that we're all happy with our recreational pursuits, and I think we all owe her a special hand. You think you love her? Boy, did I love her today. She got to tie up all the loose ends. When we began compiling a history for this occasion, a resident brought me a news photo of Governor Meskill cutting a ribbon to open the new bazaar. Now, I'm from New Jersey. I came up here after I retired. And the name Governor Meskill was in my head, but I didn't know what to expect. And I said, "Well, he probably is an old man and he won't be able to get here." And then I saw his picture, and this is a youngster, you know? Right now, he could be my son, I think. Anyway, he was our friend in Hartford, as Henry said. I want him to stand so we can recognize him. I can't play "Ruffles and Flourishes" for him, but I'd like him to stand, and maybe he'd like to say a few words.

Gov. Thomas Meskill: Thank you. I must confess, I was not your Governor when this beautiful development began, but I'm proud to say I was your congressman. And I didn't do anything while I was in Washington to screw it up, nor did I while I was in Hartford. But I always enjoyed coming here and basking in your success and in your glory. And I can remember many happy occasions playing golf with Henry. I think he played once a year, and I was fortunate enough to play with him, along with Walter Nielsen, who is now retired and in Florida. And those of you who know Walter and Bobby, they send their best, and they're sorry they couldn't be here with you. One of the reasons I always enjoyed visiting here was because the villagers were always so friendly, so articulate, so intelligent, and so Republican. Thank you very much. Happy anniversary.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: There are three former first selectmen on the stage. The only one I really knew was Mike Kenny. And Mike Kenny was so good at that job that I wondered whether Southbury would fall apart when he left. I'd like — Ed Veh is here. What were the years, Ed? What years?

Ed Veh: '60 to '66.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: So you were in on part of what was going on, right? And Sam Green followed you in office, didn't he?

Ed Veh: Yes.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Maybe you'd like to say something. Do you have a microphone, so you won't have to climb off that? Would you like to say a few words?

Ed Veh: Well, you know — is this working? Yes. I admire any of these fellows, like this guy, who just get up and talk and know what they're talking about. Not me. I have to have — there's my speech, and I have to read it, because I was afraid I'd get up there and I won't even know my own name. But I just wanted to say, I don't want to bore you with a lot of facts and figures, but just to let you know how pleased I was to be part of this thing, how beautiful it has grown, and how it's become the major part of Southbury. And I'm just proud to stand here and say to you, thank you for moving to Southbury. And may God bless each and every one of you. Thank you.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: Thank you. Thank you, Sam Green.

Sam Green: It's been a long time since I've stood in front of an audience. So if I seem a little nervous, I am. You know, it would seem from what is being said here that this mixture of the developers and the architects and everything, the people of the town, it was all put in a bowl and mixed together, and a beautiful cake came up. Let me tell you, that is not so. When it was first proposed, there was a lot of opposition. There were meetings, and I can remember meetings over in the Krueger house, where those in Southbury had vision and wanted to see Heritage Village. And I also want to remark at this point that I have an attachment to this territory, because I worked for Mr. Borg and his dad, and I can remember when Ronnie came from California to Southbury. Along the way, we finally did remove zoning and allowed Heritage Village to be built, and we had a few confrontations back and forth, but we were able to work things out. And I want to say that I agree thoroughly with the statement about the people who first came to Heritage Village and what they did for this town. Back when Ed and I were selectmen, we were part-time selectmen. Of course, we worked longer than a full week at it, but we were part-time selectmen. And if it were not for the volunteers, and many of the volunteers from Heritage Village, this town would not have been able to grow as it has. I want to tell you that I took over in July of '67 after Ed had vacated the office. That was July. In August, a truck went down the corner, turned onto the bridge on Poverty Road, and ended up in the river. There was only one other entrance into Heritage Village, and that was Poverty Road. And many, many people were very unhappy that it took a while to resolve that problem, and for us to get a new bridge in there. But then Representative Meskill came to my aid and secured some beams for a bridge, which was a temporary bridge. And at least temporarily, we got traffic across. At that time, I could see the need for more access to Heritage Village. I made a proposal to the town, and I could not sell it to the town. The town would hear nothing of it. Today, through the efforts of Mike Kenny and others, we now have Heritage Road. So you see, there were a lot of people here that had little bits and parts, and it took a lot of work, but we got there. And congratulations on a magnificent job. This is one of the best. We know it, and of course, so does the whole United States. Thank you.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: I always felt that Mike Kenny knew how to make you feel comfortable and happy, and maybe he'll do a little of that right now. Mike, would you like to come to the mic?

Mike Kenny: Mike, please don't applaud. But I'll have to go home and take a cold shower to make sure I don't want to run for office ever again. Henry touched on something in his remarks about the financing in the early days, and by coincidence, just this morning I was having a telephone conversation with our commissioner of banking in the state of Connecticut, Jack Burke. And I mentioned that I was going to be here this afternoon, and he said to say hello. He's an old friend of the brothers, but he told me a story just this morning, and I never knew the story until today, that back years ago he was the vice president — he wasn't even president — of the old Waterbury Savings Bank. And the brothers came in to see him about the financing for

Heritage Village. And Jack said that all the officers of the bank were absolutely rolling on the floor laughing, because no one knew what a condominium was, and they told him to go back and build single-family houses in Watertown and Thomaston. True story. And then, of course, Kurt and Anne came to the rescue. When I took office in 1971, I was very, very lucky in that I learned early on to surround myself with some very bright, capable people, and that's what made the 12 years that I had the honor of serving Southbury very, very easy. There were occasional flare-ups with Henry. I can recall one time we were having a real heavy argument. Henry might have needed gravel, so he could have been illegally in the Pomperaug River excavating some. And I recall serving the papers, and I was so mad at one point, I think I said to him that this time you better bring your toothbrush, because you really are going away. But overall, we worked well together, and Southbury benefited. There was only one incident that I can recall from a humorous point of view about Heritage Village. I used to periodically get telephone calls from neighboring town officials. And this one day I happened to get a telephone call from a first selectman in a neighboring town, and he said, "My gosh, Mike, I have good news and I have bad news. The good news is that the biggest pain in the you-know-what in my town is moving. The bad news is, guess where they're moving." But that was an exception. For the most part, villagers were absolutely fantastic. I can look around — there's old friends in the hall today. I see Eleanor Carroll and Glenn Morris and Joe, Sarah, Jerry Ivers. There were so many great people that came out of the village. Luke Stores, Rick Wheeler, a great many good people in town who were supportive. Gordon Schuli, Ken Baldwin. It really took a lot to make it work, but my God, did it ever work. And I'll close. My wife and I are seriously thinking — and it would be a great honor for me — I might be the very first first selectman in Southbury to live in Heritage Village. We are looking. Thank you.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: We'd love to have you, Mike. You would do this job from now on much more capably. It's about 150 degrees up here on this stage, so, you know, I'm going to cut this short. Mildred Crocker would like to talk about some other people here. Now, I don't know how many of you know Mildred, but Mildred moved to Pomperaug Woods and found that it wasn't really home, and so she came back here. And she's our historian, our mover, our shaker. She conceived this day, and is a true hunter-gatherer. She got all of this together, gave us bunches of names, and it turned out to be this very lovely occasion. I don't think I've ever met anyone with more verve. The Energizer Bunny would tremble to think she would be a competitor. I'd like to welcome Mrs. Emmett Crocker.

Mildred Crocker: Thank you very much. This is a very special day. It's special because it's a thank-you day, and we never can have too many of them. Can you hear me out there? I'm shrinking now. So, I've made some notes here, if I can keep them all together today. Sorry, my throat's so scratchy. Usually we're all so busy that we don't take time to express appreciation for the people who make things happen, the doers. And I don't mean just things, but I mean people who do things that are important to them, the doers — but even more important are the benefits to the people that they do these things for. So today, I don't know where to put this. There we are. Today we can say thank you to all of those individuals who were involved in one way or another with Heritage Village back in the '60s, the early '60s, when the Paparazzo brothers were just beginning to turn their dream into a reality. That dream was to create a new community, a condominium, a modern condominium, built not in the traditional high-rise fashion, but in a new architectural style, in a clustered pattern. The idea had never been done. Such a condominium had never been built in Connecticut, or elsewhere for that matter, in quite that style, and they were going to build it in a rural area. That was the zinger. To many of the people, the bright minds in the building industry — as it's been expressed here before — it was an absolutely insane idea and doomed to failure. Well, the dream did come true. And by 1967, residents were starting to move into Condo One. My husband and I were one of them, and I wish he were here to enjoy this. I wonder how many in the audience have lived here for 30 years. Would you

stand? Thirty years. Came in 1967. Len Mars. Oh, there's more of you. Come on. There. Oh, here, Louise, I didn't see you. Louise and Emily. Oh, aren't there any more? Where's Louise? Where's Germaine Franc, our little French neighbor? Okay, I'm sorry they didn't get here. How many — 29 years? What? How many? 28. Doc Bobby LaRose, our swimmer. 27. Good, good, good. Hi, Ed. 26. Right, right, right. And 25. More and more and more. There were many more, but unfortunately a lot of them are no longer with us. I don't mean to make those days sound like a combination of fifth-century Athens and Edwardian London, but they really were terrific days. They were exciting. They were stimulating. We were all in there doing things. They were really never-to-be-forgotten days. And they were made memorable by the never-to-be-forgotten people. Although these people were inexperienced — they were experienced in their own careers, of course, but not in doing what they did for this community — they set up all kinds of activities. They organized the events and the clubs and the organizations we still benefit by and still enjoy today, that were started as far back as '67. Those first five or six years were really tremendous. I still marvel at the lack of friction and the comparative ease with which these diverse personalities blended and subordinated their interests to a common purpose. It was very inspiring. It really was. We still have it today, but so many of the things are now already planned, so it isn't quite the same. So many of them are gone. It's almost sad to remember their names, but they left such a mark here that they deserve to be remembered. Percy Pym — now, these names aren't going to mean much to you newcomers, but the old-timers will remember. Percy Pym was a pioneer in Condo One, and you all remember Percy. He would serve on any committee, do whatever you asked him to do. He was always there. When the developers opened the financial center, he was our town crier, introducing all of the guests, dressed in colonial costume. He was wonderful. Doc Wallace, who helped start the men's woodworking shop. Larry Morris, the record and tape club. Barbara Ives, who initiated the Dewey decimal system for our Heritage Village Library. Pat Roberts, who laid out the garden. Rad Chimayo, who will always be associated with the ambulance. Duck Morton, the theater guild. Cliff Troxell and the Cliff Olsby Singers. New Christensen, who formed the Gaudy Club, that printed all of our programs and our invitations and events. We always remember, too, the men and women on the developer staff, the construction men, the security men, the maintenance men. They all helped us in so many ways. Some no longer live in this area, and others were too ill to come, but they are remembered. Warren Callister, who was our architect from California, and Bill, of course, worked with him. Dan McCaffrey, who lives in Florida now, was one of our managers. Aaron Turner is not well. Don Wagner in Florida. Marge Simons and Carl Jalbert. All of them left their mark. All of them left footprints. I wanted so much to have Dave Sullivan come here today, because Dave was head of the construction crew, and he was an Indian, and Tiboot was an Indian chief, chief of the Maliseet tribe of the Algonquian nation. He lived in New Brunswick, Canada. No one seemed to have his address, but I tried to track him down. I even called the police station in New Brunswick, Canada, and I never got an answer. Nobody was there, but I left a message on a voicemail. Never heard from anybody on that either. So either the police force have day jobs, or there's absolutely no crime in New Brunswick, Canada. Oh dear. But we do have several people with us. We have Glenn Mars, who represents his — please stand — Glenn Mars, who represents his father, Vern Mars. Vern was on the maintenance staff and a wonderful man.

Glenn Mars: Say hello from Texas. I think my dad says hello from Texas.

Mildred Crocker: Oh, how nice. Oh, he's in Texas. I thought it was Florida. He would be in Texas. The Marses live right down the road. And I must say, we're very grateful for the fact that Glenn still keeps the family connection with the village. If we want horses for a parade, or we want to send anyone on a hayride, Glenn is our man. Or to work with the garden — I'll remember that. And is Herby here? Herby Moran. Oh, Herby. Herby. You're supposed to be down here. Herby was one of the most wonderful men. You see, oh, Herby was wonderful. He

was absolutely indispensable to every woman who lived in Heritage Village. And I don't mean it that way. He did better than that. He hammered things. He moved things. He hung things. He solved things. He was simply wonderful. It was a very sad day when Henry transferred him to Somers to work in Heritage Hills, where I'm sure you were as dearly regarded. Dear, anything you want to say?

Herby Moran: I don't want to say anything. I'm glad to be here today.

Mildred Crocker: I'm so glad you could come. Some of our other longtime residents, longtime employees, worked in the administration building. We didn't see them as often, but when we had a problem, they were the ones we went to. Now, Sarah's been lauded before, but she deserves a second introduction. Sarah, what in the world would we do without her? Hank Ronaldo. Where's Hank? Stand up. Hank was one of the treasures. Joe Batada. Leon Farre. Is Leon here? He was the electrical contractor. He was very important to us. Then we have some of our new ones. Dick Carney — Carnegie, doesn't spell it the same way. He is the vice president — you are vice president, or president? You're vice president. Oh, it's Keith Sorenson. Who is — is he here? He is the president of the Heritage Development Corporation, and George Godfrey the treasurer. Now, where are the sales girls who were here? I see Mary Lyon. Mary was our sales girl when — you know, we kept an apartment in New Haven after we sold our place in Bethel, the farm, because Emmett had a bad heart attack and we were abroad. We had kept the apartment in New Haven because Emmett used the library for research, and we didn't want to stay in a rented apartment when we came back from Europe. So we looked and looked in the New Haven Register for places to go. We wanted to get a condominium, because we couldn't work outside anymore. And we read of a place up in Essex. So we trundled up there and met Mary Lyon, and we told her, "Well, this is for rent. We didn't want that. We wanted to buy a place." And she said, "Oh, the same developers are building in Southbury." Well, we had had friends here. So down we went to Southbury. That was in about '66, before you were opened. They had the sales building, I think, about that time. So we came here one Sunday, and only the foreman was here, but he took our name and address and said that when the place opened we'd get a notice and we could come, which we did immediately. We put our pin in the map, and there we are. But it was Mary who was our sales girl in Essex, and then, more to the point, right here. Any of the other sales girls here? Lillian Whiteway, and Louise Foster — Louise Prescott, I mean. And what about Lillian White? I hope she's — oh, there she is. Lily, I have to see you after, I've not seen you for ages. And our current manager, Mike Clark. He doesn't need any introduction, but he's the man to see if you have a problem with your house and things. And where's Jan? Jan Titus. Jan is Henry's girl Friday. And if you don't see Henry, you see Jan. She'll tell you. I'm getting ahead of myself here. I made these notes today, so forgive me. I don't want to fail to name anybody. Something else I wanted to say about that — you met, well, you know Kurt, of course, the attorney here, but I don't think you met Carl Peterson. Carl Peterson was the attorney for the Master Association, and believe me, he was very important. Mr. Peterson, you want to say anything?

Carl Peterson: I'll just say, briefly, I'm delighted to be here, and congratulations on your 30th. The other thing I did for Henry, when he couldn't get the money from Center Bank or Waterbury Savings Bank, he walked across the street to Colonial Bank, and I acted as counsel for Colonial Bank in doing the financing here. Of course, having Fidelity Mutual as his partner didn't hurt, but anyway, congratulations. Nice to be here.

Mildred Crocker: I wanted to say something about — I was just delighted that so many of the wives were able to come along and join us today, come along with their husbands. That doesn't usually happen on business things like this. They leave you home. Wait a minute — not that you stay there, but you can — where am I? Oh, I wanted to talk a little bit about the merchants, the people in town who were a tremendous help, not to us as residents necessarily, but to the

Paparazzos. Of course, Alfie was on the zoning board, were you not, Alfie? You did that. But I don't want to miss saying what they did. Where's George Stone? Oh, George, I didn't see him. George was just wonderful. He and Ken Baldwin, who was listed before — he's gone now. And Peggy Tomey, where's Peggy? Oh, she didn't come. Oh, I'm sorry. She's the widow of Joe Tomey of the market, you know, the food market. But the Tomeys, George Stone, Ed Beam, all of these people worked and worked and worked. Now, it's true the business — a new development here was going to help their business — but they convinced their neighbors by talking to them, by speaking out at town meetings, by circulating petitions, that the village was also going to be good business for the entire town. So these are the people that we really want to salute today and make them feel how much they meant to the developers and to the residents. When the financial building was opened — Eleanor Carroll, where's Eleanor? Oh, I didn't see you over there. Eleanor, stand up there. Eleanor Carroll was the manager of what was then Colonial Bank, which is now the Bank of Boston. They were the first bank in the village — had the first bank in the village. And I remember when we came here in '67, Eleanor was in the bank. Eleanor and the bank were in a little store between the supermarket and the Southbury food market, and a little restaurant. Then there was a fire in the restaurant, burned the whole thing. And of course the Tomeys then built this tremendous, wonderful market we now have, despite the Grand Unions and all that. Anyway — oh dear, where else? I want to say something about — oh, and when the bazaar opened, Ed D'Andria was the manager of the — I don't really — Ed D'Andria was the — nobody can hear, not enough. Okay. Now can you hear me? Ed D'Andria was the manager of Grants. Did everybody see? He's now retired, because of course Grants has closed. Now I want to talk about the wives, because there are some — Mrs. Borg is there. Mrs. Borg, are you in the theater too? No? You're pretty enough to be. Mrs. Meskill — Mrs. Meskill was one of our first ladies of Connecticut. Mrs. Henry Paparazzo, Jeanie. And I was hoping that Lois, Mrs. Frank — no, didn't come. Frank didn't come. He's so shy. You know, the village has grown a great deal and matured since those days. Today, as residents, we deal with different problems, new circumstances. And thank heavens, the village still attracts dedicated people, community-minded people, who are willing to serve in any capacity. They work for the community and the community's well-being. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Paparazzo brothers. I want to say that again, because without them, we wouldn't be here. They had the vision, the imagination, and, if you'll forgive me, the sheer guts to take that risk and make this into a success. Southbury, from the very beginning, has been a material success. It means and has meant a tax bounty for the town. It has brought an expansion for the merchants, more attendance at the churches, and scores of dedicated people interested in education serve in the school system. Their tutors, or whatever, serve on the board. And the town also has benefited by being — having a talent resource for the town itself, the town government. We have many of our people — Don Briggs is one, who I think is now serving his 10th year as a selectman. Is Don here? Stand up, Don. Where are you? Don, anybody else who served on the board? Oh, wait — Jasser, where'd I see Jasser? I saw her before. She was here before. Did she leave? Jasser, come up. Served on the board. You served — weren't you a selectman? I knew you served. As I say, it's been a tax bounty and it's been a material success for the town itself, but for the villagers who live here, it's been far more than that. It's been a wonderful, wonderful place to live. Don't you agree?

Dr. Alvin Lasser: I envisioned something small, perhaps a weekend for a festival. And then I was joined by Alice Gross as co-chairman, and Alice, like the Paparazzos, dreams big. I'd like to introduce her to you. She's largely responsible for what's happening here this week, this coming week. And I'd like her to say hello to you, and please help me thank her.

Alice Gross: It takes two to tango, and one alone cannot really do the job. So I offered to help. It's been a delight. I'm sure it will continue to be so throughout the coming 10 days. Lieutenant Governor Rell, Mr. Balsza, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen: Al Lasser has honored the

dream-makers whose concept and vision — and I've got to change my glasses, because my vision is not working. That's better. Whose concept and vision brought Heritage Village to the charming town of Southbury and to the hills of Connecticut. If you've looked around the town recently, you know that it's no longer the little town it was 30 years ago. And we all enjoy what it has become. Mildred Crocker has honored the people, those working people who really took the dreams of the Paparazzos and all of the others and put together the village that we have. She also asked us to acknowledge the presence of all of those who came 25 to 30 years ago and made this their home, and their contribution at that time also made the village what it is today. I'm here as a comparative newcomer, only seven years since Irv and I moved into the village, but they've been very active, busy, enjoyable years, despite the fact that we spend six months away from here down in the southern climes. I'm here to bring us to the reality of the present and the future. Through the skills and the talents of leaders in this village, the residents participate in a way of life that is truly unique, intellectually stimulating, gratifying our desire to pursue activities and hobbies that may be new, or perhaps have lain dormant for many years. Many of us broaden our interests by joining groups we never had time for before we retired from what we often smilingly refer to as the real world. Here we have neighbors who have gifted us unstintingly with their talents, their skills, their time, and their effort, affording all of us a most pleasurable lifestyle. So to you, ladies and gentlemen, who are seated here in the hall, and who are the representatives of the clubs and activities and organizations, we say thanks. Thanks for your volunteerism, and for making the lives of all villagers more satisfying and meaningful. Festival 30, which officially starts this coming Friday, August 15, will be a concentrated 10-day period in which we can all take pride. Yes, the village is 30 years old as a physical entity, but — and this is our big secret — we're only 30 years old in spirit. If anybody asks, remember, our motto for Festival 30 is "30 and Thriving." And we expect to leave an even better village for those who come in the years ahead. We thank all of our honored guests, both those on stage and seated below, for having joined us this afternoon. You've helped to make this a true Day of Recognition for a very special community. For the steering committee and my co-chair Dr. Alvin Lasser, let me also thank Mrs. Emmett Crocker, historian par excellence, for conceiving of this event. We would not have had it had she not said we need to do something to honor those who started it. Kudos to you, Mildred. Thank you. And last, although it has been said twice before, please acknowledge our superb director of activities, Sarah Cook. Once more, without her staff and her personal dedication to Heritage Village and its residents, we couldn't possibly have the smooth-running activities program we so much enjoy. You're one in a thousand, Sarah. Thank you very much. We hope to see you all, with hundreds of your neighbors and friends and families and guests, throughout the Festival 30 days coming up, starting again on Friday. And let us say good afternoon and thank you for your presence here today.

Dr. Alvin Lasser: I wonder whether you would hold your seats for just a minute until the people on the platform have an opportunity to leave; and they are invited to the Women's Club for a reception. Thank you.

Speaker: Pleasure. Yep. Been there for 30 years. Yep. There he is.