

90-year-old Air Force veteran and late wife honored with Hometown Heroes banner

By Kristine Coulter

Hometown hero Evert Munning Jr. was honored, as well as his late wife, Catherine "Teeny" Munning, during a recent ceremony held at a local nursing facility in Putnam County. Evert and Teeny were both in the U.S. Air Force and lived in East Fishkill for many years after relocating from Patterson, Putnam County, said their daughter, Karen Raab.

According to Karen, Evert was a 1st Class Airman. He worked on data processing for the first IBM Mainframe. Teeny, who was promoted to colonel, as a bookkeeper, handled relocations, said Karen.

Evert, who was from Brooklyn, and Teeny, who was from the Bronx, first met in 1952, as the Korean War was happening. They joined the Air Force -- Teeny on Valentine's Day in 1952 and Evert on St. Patrick's Day in 1952, remarked their daughter.

"I couldn't ask for anything more. I'm lucky," said Evert, who is now 90, when he was presented with the Hometown Heroes banner.

Patriotic music was played during the ceremony, which began when those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

After joining the service, Evert and Teeny went off to boot camp. Teeny went to San Antonio, Texas for boot camp while Evert was in Rome, NY to complete his required boot camp. Teeny and Evert met in Alabama, on Montgomery Air Force Base, said Karen. Evert and Teeny were married on December 5, 1953.

Teeny gave birth to Pat, the couple's first child, while serving at the Montgomery Air Force Base in 1955. Four more children, Debi, Eddie, Karen and Gary, would complete Evert and



Ninety-year-old Evert Munning Jr., second from right, and his late wife, Catherine "Teeny" Munning, were honored with a Hometown Heroes banner recently. The ceremony, attended by the Munnings' adult children, from left, Karen Raab, Eddie Munning and Pat Ristaino, took place in Putnam County. The banner will be posted in East Fishkill, where the Munnings previously resided.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Teeny's family. The couple's youngest son, Gary, died in 2012.

Bill Meyer and Kevin Hines, from Manny Bacon VFW Post, offered words and presented the banners. It was stated that the banners will be posted in East Fishkill.

"They are just amazing parents that

served our country," said Karen.

Pat Ristaino, the couple's eldest daughter, said about the banner, "I think it's awesome." She added: "I think it's a wonderful gift for the family." She said her mom was "amazing." Teeny died in 2016.

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Family and friends honor local veteran Evert Munning Jr. during a ceremony where he was presented with a Hometown Hero banner.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Veterans honored

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Karen mentioned that her mother's life "started when she went into the military."

Eddie Munning, Teeny and Evert's son, stated, "I've always been proud of both my parents serving in the U.S. Air Force."

Eddie remarked that he loves the fact that his parents met while they were serving in the military.

Evert said the honor of having the banner with his and his wife's photos on it "is awesome... even through there are some veterans more worthy than me."