



Her work ethic got her to 100

Tess Brana celebrated her 100th birthday last week at McPeak's Assisted Living in Patchogue. At age 8, Brana immigrated from Italy to Brooklyn with her parents, where they ran a candy store. Brana married, lived in Ozone Park, and was a retailer at Macy's in New York City, where she sold women's gloves and did comparison-shopping for the department store for 30 years. She worked on the first floor. "You were always well dressed," she remembered. Brana carefully fitted long gloves for weddings and gala occasions on her clients' hands. Sometimes, she met celebrities like Carol Burnett. McPeak's recreation director Linda Ohlsen said Brana's work ethic pushes her every day. "She's a crossword fan and attends all my programs," Ohlsen said. "She even helps with crafts and our decorating, and the crafts are a form of work. She loves our pet therapy program, when they bring in Liberty Bell, a Burmese mountain dog." In the photo, McPeak's recreation director Linda Ohlsen holds the birthday cake while Tess Brana blows out the candles.

— Linda Leuzzi

Photo courtesy of Hank Russell-PRMG