

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

MAUREEN NICOLACE

Alma Lee Loy sits on the bench that includes a plaque, dedicating the bench in her name.

# Alma Lee Loy “benched”

MAUREEN NICOLACE

Indian River County philanthropy quiz: who has a beach, a brick, a bridge and a building named after her? Answer: Alma Lee Loy. In keeping with the “B” theme, now a bench is also named after this Vero Beach pioneer, who is often referred to as “The First Lady of Vero Beach.”

Last November, Loy was presented with a special President’s Award during the National Philanthropy Day celebration hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Indian River Chapter. An informal dedication ceremony was held Friday, June 30 at A.W. Young Park located on the Indian River Lagoon in Vero Isles. AFP president Monique Walker presided over the

bench dedication.

“Alma Lee is truly one of the most sincere, kind-hearted and humble people I have ever met,” Walker said. “She’s dedicated herself to so many causes, but never in a self-serving manner.”

It is fitting that from the bench, one can look out over the Indian River and see the bridge also named after her.

Alma Lee, who was friends with Young as a teenager, shared that A.W. Young Park has always held a warm spot in her heart, noting that the view of the river is beautiful and soothing, especially when you “need to stop a moment and enjoy God’s world.”

This year’s National Philanthropy Day celebration is scheduled for Nov. 15 at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.