

Awarded by the Louisville Historical Commission

Pioneer Award

**VIRGINIA DEROSE CARANCI
2006**



Virginia had close ties to Louisville due to her mother being from the town, but it was the death of Virginia's father that led to her family moving from Denver to Louisville when she was eight years old. She lived with her mother and brother at her grandparents' home - the Jordinelli House, which is same house that is now part of the Louisville Historical Museum today. As a young person, she worked for her uncle, Eliseo Jacoe, at the Jacoe Grocery in the back room as order taker and sacking potatoes. She married Louisville native, Eugene Caranci. Long before the Louisville Historical Commission was created, Virginia was collecting pieces of Louisville history.

Virginia brought her strong organizational and communication skills to her work that she did in many capacities for the betterment of Louisville, including as the president of the committee to get a golf course (the Coal Creek Golf Course) in Louisville and as the chairperson for the Louisville Historical Commission for twelve years. She was an avid volunteer for many organizations and community efforts, including Avista Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, the Spaghetti Open, the Taste of Louisville, the Parade of Lights, and of course, the Louisville Historical Commission.

Virginia was the first recipient of the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year Award, when it was noted that she spent as much time at the Louisville Historical Museum as an adult as she did when the old storefront building was Jacoe's Grocery as she was taking orders and Chief Potato Sacker.