

Since joining the READ/Orange County volunteers program in April of 1996 at the wonderful age of 87, Antonio “Tone” Correa has gone far beyond the commitment level expected. He has contributed more than 2,700 service hours. He has tutored more than 21 adult learners, and often taking on the added responsibility of working with 3 or 4 students simultaneously.

Over the years, Tone has assisted adult learners in reaching their goals to become better employees, parents and community members. He has been instrumental in helping students qualify for their high school equivalency diplomas and gain reading skills needed to become U.S. citizens.

Tone is always ready to help new volunteer tutors overcome the nervousness they may face in working with their first students, and he continues to enhance his tutoring skills through training opportunities.

In 2002, he was honored at the Sixth Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards for the County of Orange during National Volunteer Recognition Week. In March of 2005 at the age of 97, Tone was again honored for his volunteer service and commitment by receiving the President’s Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Commitment. Tone received a note of congratulations from President George W. Bush and was presented a Certificate of Achievement and gold Volunteer Service Award pin at a ceremony during an Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting.

On April 13, 2009, Tone celebrated his 100th birthday. READ/OC tutors, learners and their families, library patrons, and County employees are all celebrating Tone throughout the month of April by pledging to read one hour to honor Tone’s 100 years.

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25 and this year’s theme, “Celebrating People in Action” honoring individuals “who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their community.” Tone continues to be such a person “in action” and most certainly is deserving of celebration!