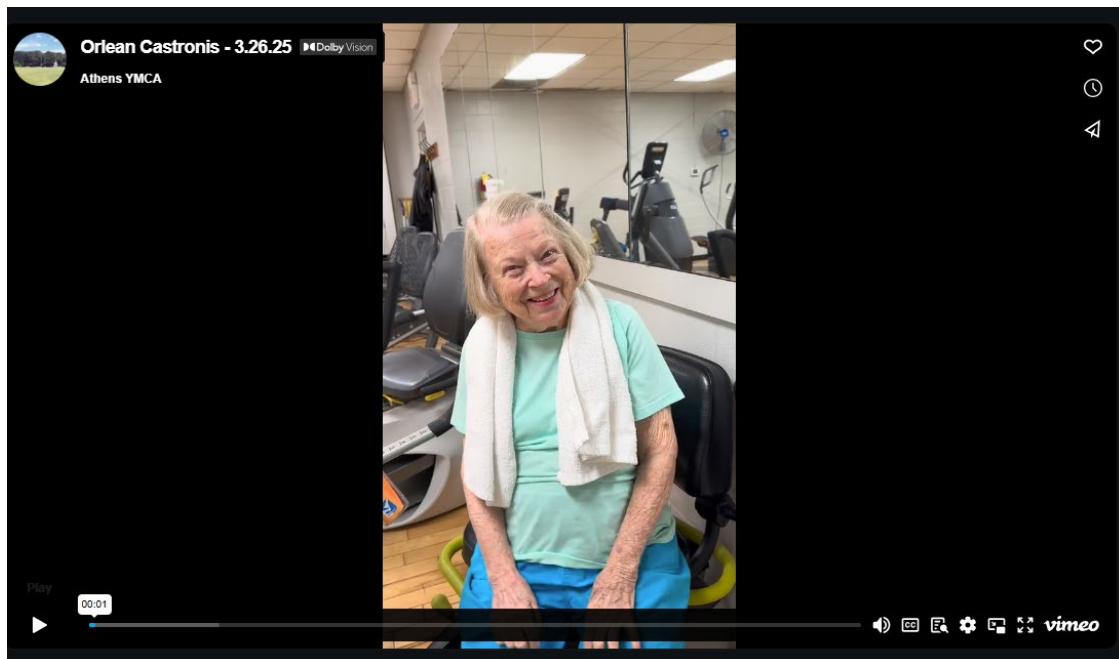


why the Y

Dear Friend of the Athens YMCA,

Malcolm Gladwell argued that being an expert at something requires 10,000 hours or 10 years of experience. Today I want to introduce you to Mrs. Orlean Castronis, who, at 101 years old, can easily be an expert of the Athens YMCA! **Listen to her incredible story below:**



She recalls how this “new” YMCA facility, built in 1967, flipped the script to welcome women, and she’s been coming ever since! When her husband, former UGA Football coach and YMCA leader, passed away 20 years later, it was this Y that helped her continue.

Mrs. Orlean's story and attitude demonstrates some of the most important aspects of the Athens YMCA: community, strength, and legacy!

57 years ago, Mrs. Orlean saw the community rally to expand the Y, and the result was our current facility! Now, she is a part of seeing the community come together for the next chapter!

I recently sent a message thanking her for believing in our YMCA and for supporting our vision for the future. She wrote back "Dear Shae, This morning I received your letter of thanks for my support of the Y. I believe you have that wrong. I believe that it's the Y that supports me." What a blessing it is to know her!

Sincerely,

Shae Wilson
CEO