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Two Generations of Knicks Fans Celebrate Iconic Win



By Vivian Rose, Jun 30, 2026

Frances Flynn, 96, watched as the [New York Knicks](#) won the NBA championship for the third time in her lifetime and celebrated with her physical therapist, Raymond Gutierrez, who happened to be on a home visit after the historic win.

Claiming the championship in 1970 and 1973, the Knicks' most recent victory forced Flynn to wait more than five decades to commemorate her favorite team, this time with a different support system.

Flynn is not only a longtime [Knicks](#) fan but a longtime resident of New Hyde Park. Gutierrez lives in Floral Park and said he moved to Long Island from the Philippines 26 years ago.

Together, they mark two generations of Knicks fans, and Gutierrez said they cherished cheering their team on together.

Gutierrez works for [VNS Health](#), one of the largest nonprofit home and community-based health care services in the United States, according to the organization. He said that getting the chance to work with the decades-long Knicks fan has been an incredible experience.

"It's amazing after 26 years of following the team to see them become champions," Gutierrez wrote. "It reminds me of the importance of never giving up."

Like the Knicks, Flynn has had to learn not to lose hope, Gutierrez said. He said that after several hospitalizations and an operation, she was told she may never walk again.

It's for that reason that Gutierrez frequents Flynn's residence for home visits, getting her walking better and her strength back. He said that before the iconic championship win, the two would regularly talk about the Knicks.

"On my visits, I make sure we really connect," Gutierrez said. "It's important to show you're listening, because knowing how she is feeling and understanding both her physical and emotional needs helps me provide the best care."

Gutierrez said that discussing the games certainly strengthened their bond and noted that their regular conversations about their favorite team have kept the two motivated during physical therapy sessions.

"In the same way Knicks fans have stuck with the team through the good and bad years, so many of my patients across Long Island, like Mrs. Flynn, have shown immense strength and perseverance in the face of challenges," Gutierrez said. "It's incredibly gratifying to celebrate any win in our community, whether that's the Knicks' championship or taking that first step after recovering from a fall."

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