



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo: Older New Yorkers recognized for contributions to their communities

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO May 17, 2024

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New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-C-Rome, announced today that several residents in the 53rd Senate District have been recognized by the New York State Office for the Aging as part of National Older Americans Month.

“Members of older generations have helped build and shape our state and nation,” **Sen. Griffo said.** “These individuals from my Senate District, as well as all the others that were honored by the Office for the Aging, have truly made a difference. Through their volunteerism, generosity and compassion, they have inspired and enriched the lives of others and made many important contributions to their communities.”

Brief biographies of the honorees are below:

Nancy Nicholl – Oneida County

For 31 years, Nancy Nicholl served as a deputy sheriff, playing an instrumental role in spreading the D.A.R.E program throughout Oneida County schools.

Following her service in law enforcement, Nicholl transitioned seamlessly into a role as caregiver, ensuring her father and others receive the support they deserve by participating in the county's adult day program, where she has provided many activities for the group to enjoy.

Nicholl's dedication shines through vibrant celebrations and engaging activities, enriching the lives of participants at Copper City Community Connection, a center that provides local community events, physical health education, exercise classes, aging mastery programs and more.

A lifelong advocate for community safety and well-being, Nicholl's journey from law enforcement to caregiving is guided by service to others. Her belief in the power of volunteerism to combat isolation and foster connections echoes through her actions and word.

Jane Ondich – Madison County

From her involvement with AmeriCorps Seniors to assisting citizenship classes at Syracuse Community Connections, Jane Ondich's passion for helping others shines through.

Originally hailing from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Jane Ondich's journey led her to settle in Chittenango, New York, in 1974, where she embarked on a 36-year teaching career.

Alongside her husband, Ondich embraces travel as an opportunity to connect with family scattered across the country.

Ondich emphasizes her motivation to serve without seeking recognition. For her, volunteering is not just about the tasks, but about the connections made and the warmth of knowing she's made a difference in someone's life.

Kathy Miller – Chenango County

Kathy Miller brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her volunteer work with the Chenango County Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

Graduating from Oxford Academy and later obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from SUNY Oneonta, Miller embarked on a fulfilling career as a social worker, serving in long-term care

facilities across several counties in New York.

Miller's passion for serving older adults led her back to Chenango County, where she served as a case manager and counselor for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP), which provides free and objective counseling to older adults on Medicare and other health insurance questions.

Now retired, Miller continues her commitment to the community by volunteering during the agency's busy HIICAP season. Known for her extensive knowledge and genuine care for her clients, Miller takes the extra time to build meaningful relationships and ensure comprehensive support for everyone.

Beyond her volunteer work, Miller enjoys spending time with her family, including her sons and grandchildren, as well as indulging in her love for travel.

Chuck Miller – Chenango County

Chuck Miller's dedication to volunteerism reflects his deep compassion and commitment to serving others. From delivering meals to supporting medical transportation services, his impact on his community is truly invaluable.

Originally from Latham, New York, Miller's career in sales and management prepared him for a life of service in retirement. His passion for helping others shines through his volunteer work, making a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

In his spare time, Miller has restored an old hay wagon on his property to give hayrides to friends, family, neighbors, and even older adults from the senior center during the fall. He continues to positively impact his community through his kindness and generosity.

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