



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo presents New York State Senate Commendation Awards

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO May 31, 2024

| ISSUE: **NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMENDATIONS**



At a special ceremony today at Munson in Utica, New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-C-Rome, presented New York State Senate Commendation Awards to several residents of the 53rd Senate District.

Commendations are one of the highest honors that the Senate can use to recognize individuals who have served and made lasting contributions to their community and the state throughout their careers or lives.

Those honored included:

- Raymond J. Durso, Jr., president/CEO of the Genesis Group.
- Marolyn Wilson, a former owner of Holland Farms Bakery & Deli and community advocate.
- Lawrence Gilroy, president of Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. and co-chair for the Regional Economic Development Council for the Mohawk Valley.
- Elis DeLia, an accomplished attorney and local and small business advocate.
- Dr. Rick Timbs, executive director of the Statewide School Finance Consortium and a respected leader in education.
- Dr. Cheryl Minor, a longtime and well-regarded educator and administrator with the Utica City School District.
- Patrick McGrath, co-director of the City of Utica's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and an advocate for Irish heritage in the city and region.
- Mersiha Omeragic, co-owner of Yummilicious Café & Bakery in Utica and advocate for refugees in the community.

Grace Rapasadi, an accomplished judge and civic leader from Madison County, was unable to attend the ceremony but was also recognized.

Honorees received a personalized plaque and commendation coin as part of the ceremony.

“These honorees are certainly worthy of recognition,” **Sen. Griffo said.** “They have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to helping others and have worked selflessly to improve the wellbeing of area residents, children, families, businesses, schools and communities. Each has truly made a difference and should be applauded and commended for their efforts.”

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