



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

Senator Helming Remembers Chief Kevin Powers

PAMELA HELMING July 30, 2024

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Senator Helming remembers Kevin Powers, who passed away July 17 after serving 61 years as assistant chief and 70 years in the Geneva Fire Department and its Nester Hose Company.

When I was first elected to the Senate, as a new representative of Geneva, many people suggested I introduce myself to Kevin Powers. They said he was the person to talk to about all things Geneva. So I did. And boy, were those people right.

Over the years, I would turn to Kevin many times for information, historical knowledge, or guidance on city matters. He was always helpful and serious. There were times I saw a twinkle in his eye, and I mean that quite literally. Maybe it was our shared Irish roots. I often got the feeling he wanted to say more, yet he was always very professional.

The term statesman is often used to describe government figures. But that was Kevin Powers. He was a statesman in every sense of the word. A dedicated and resolute public servant who always thought of others before himself, who consistently did the right thing, whose deep respect and concern for others earned him enduring admiration and praise.

When I think of the Geneva 9/11 remembrance ceremonies, the first image that comes to mind is Kevin. He was the first person to greet me and everyone else. He organized and executed a beautiful ceremony year after year, but was never one to seek credit or

recognition.

The story I love most about Kevin was shared at his funeral service by Jimmer McCormack. Jimmer said as a young boy, Kevin would chase after fire engines. When he turned 18, he immediately went to the fire department to sign on as a volunteer. The then Irish and Italian split led him to Nester Hose Company, where he signed his name and served until his passing.

Not everyone chases fire engines, but we can all chase the spirit of service to others and community that Chief Powers exemplified every day of his remarkable life.