



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Steven D. Rhoads

## Senator Steve Rhoads Hosts 2nd Annual Women of Distinction Ceremony Recognizing Outstanding Women in his Senate District

STEVEN D. RHOADS October 4, 2024



On September 26th, State Senator Steve Rhoads held his 2nd Annual Women of Distinction ceremony at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, a heartfelt event dedicated to honoring 18 remarkable women who have significantly impacted the local community. The ceremony served as a valuable occasion to recognize these trailblazers, acknowledging the pride and joy they have tirelessly cultivated in their neighborhoods. With the aim of inspiring younger generations, the event highlighted the honorees' exceptional achievements, encouraging

them to pursue their own aspirations and follow in the footsteps of these distinguished women.

As the honorees made their way into the packed auditorium, accompanied by the stirring sound of bagpipes, the enthusiasm of the audience was palpable, erupting into a resounding applause that echoed their appreciation. The event kicked off with the Brownie Troop 3000 and Daisy Troop 3252 from Charles Campagne Elementary School leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, Kayla Knight singing the National Anthem, and a Welcoming Prayer, setting a tone of unity and celebration. Adding to the festive atmosphere, young dancers from 5678 Dance Studio in Levittown captivated the audience with a lively performance, further emphasizing the importance of community and the arts.

Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, a trailblazing community leader and financial expert, took to the podium to deliver the keynote address. Her inspiring words resonated with everyone present, urging the honorees to never give up and reminding all attendees of the invaluable lessons learned from setting high aspirations. Senator Rhoads also highlighted several of his legislative initiatives supporting women across New York State, reinforcing the necessity of advocacy and support for women in the community.

During the ceremony, each honoree's biography was read aloud, highlighting their unique contributions and the lasting impact they have made. One by one, Senator Rhoads presented the Women of Distinction awards, expressing sincere gratitude for their relentless efforts to enhance the quality of life on Long Island. The event culminated in a warm reception where the Senator and attendees shared light refreshments and engaged in meaningful conversations to celebrate the extraordinary successes of these women. Through his efforts, Senator Rhoads not only honored the past accomplishments of these distinguished individuals but also ignited a beacon of hope for future generations, inspiring them to strive

for excellence within their communities.

*q*

*Senator Rhoads said, “Under the glow of admiration and empowerment, my 2nd Annual Women of Distinction ceremony unfolded as a breathtaking celebration of resilience and inspiration, leaving an indelible mark on every heart in the room. Surrounded by such inspiring, strong, and courageous individuals, I felt a profound sense of unity and camaraderie. Each story shared illuminated the tremendous accomplishments of these honorees, showcasing their relentless pursuit of excellence across various sectors including industry, education, volunteerism, faith, law enforcement, and the non-profit arena. As we celebrated the achievements of these 18 extraordinary women, it became clear that their influence extends far beyond their professions. They are not just leaders; they are trailblazers who have forged paths for future generations. Their commitment to serving others and their unwavering determination to effect positive change resonate deeply, reminding us all of the power of resilience and collaboration. It was a privilege to host this celebration and I congratulate all of the 2024 Women of Distinction honorees! This ceremony not only celebrated their accomplishments, but also ignited a renewed sense of purpose within all of us, encouraging each of us to make our world a better place and strive for excellence in our own lives.”*