



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

## Senator Helming Presents New York State Senate Commendation Award to Raymond Welker Jr. of Walworth

PAMELA HELMING January 31, 2025

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Senator Helming with Ray Welker Jr.

Senator Helming recently had the honor of presenting a New York State Senate Commendation Award to Raymond “Ray” Welker Jr. of Walworth in recognition of his extraordinary 70 years of dedicated service with the West Walworth Volunteer Fire Department. This memorable presentation took place during the department’s annual banquet, where members gathered to celebrate an impressive 78 years of commitment to

community service.

Ray became a volunteer firefighter at 18, as he followed in the footsteps of his father, Raymond G. Welker, Sr., and grandfather, Jacob VanHall. This proud legacy of service continues today, as Ray's two sons, Lawrence and Thomas, alongside his grandson, Joshua, actively volunteer with the West Walworth Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, his daughter-in-law Brenda, and granddaughters Felica and Brenna, contribute their time and efforts as valued members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In 2024, Ray demonstrated his unwavering dedication by responding to an incredible 87 percent of the West Walworth fire calls, continuing to be a vital part of the team. He continues to serve as an active member today.

Senator Helming expressed, "It is a privilege to recognize Ray for this remarkable milestone of continued community service. For 70 years,

Ray has not only been a mentor and friend but also an inspiration to his family and future generations who embrace the tradition of volunteer fire service. It is truly an honor to present him with a New York State Senate Commendation Award."

The New York State Senate Commendation Award is bestowed upon individuals who make a significant impact through their enduring volunteer and community service efforts.

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