



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

## New York Senate Honors Colleen H. Mastine as a 2012 Women of Distinction

JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO May 15, 2012

Senator John A. DeFrancisco honored Colleen H. Mastine with the 2012 "Women of Distinction" award for the 50th Senate District. The New York State Senate recognizes women from Central New York and throughout the state at a reception in Albany.

"I am proud to honor my former colleague and friend, Colleen Mastine, who served in my district office for many years," said Senator DeFrancisco.

"Through her work in the Senate, she helped so many citizens in our community. I commend her for a lifetime of helping others, and for the genuine caring and concern that she exhibited, as she worked with people to solve their problems," said Senator DeFrancisco.

Colleen was a lifelong resident of Syracuse, who served in Syracuse Mayor Tom Young's administration, and she was a member of the subcabinet on neighborhoods and youth.

In 1995, Colleen joined the New York State Senate, where she served as Director of Constituent Services, assisting hundreds of Central New York residents with some of their most pressing issues.

“Whether it was helping individuals get proper medical care, working with veterans, or advocating for certain youth programs and services, Colleen gave her all, without seeking reward,” said Senator DeFrancisco.

For nearly 30 years, Colleen dedicated her life to public service. She was an active volunteer within the community, lending her time and talents to St. Ann’s Parish and various youth organizations, such as the Butler School of Dance, Westvale Knights Pop Warner, and the Boys and Girls Club. She served on various boards, including Vera House, Elmcrest Children’s Center, and New Justice Conflict Resolution Services.

Senator DeFrancisco, and his Senate Majority colleagues, started the "Women of Distinction" program in 1998 as a way to recognize the contributions of women in New York state, who have enhanced the lives of those around them, and who, through their achievements, have inspired other women in their communities.

Each honoree will be recognized at a ceremony on May 15, 2012, and their photograph and biography will be displayed in an exhibit proclaiming the special contributions of each "Woman of Distinction."

Previous honorees have included remarkable women from the academic, civic and business arenas, as well as women who have performed heroic or selfless acts, made significant discoveries, or provided examples of personal excellence against difficult odds.

Colleen H. Mastine passed away in February of 2012.