



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Sens. Ritchie and Griffo Team to Honor St. Lawrence Thunder Hockey Team

PATTY RITCHIE June 6, 2012

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### Honored in the Senate for Capture of NYS Tier II Championship

**\*\*\* WATCH THE VIDEO NOW \*\*\***

The St. Lawrence Thunder Bantam 14 and Under Boys Hockey Team was recognized in Albany today by Senator Patty Ritchie and Senator Joe Griffo, for their capture of the New York State Tier II Championship.

“I’ve had the honor of hosting a number of athletes in the Capitol, but rarely are they as young as this group,” said Senator Patty Ritchie.

“While they may only be in the early stages of their athletic careers, they have just as much drive and determination as any older team I’ve met. As a former hockey mom, I know how much hard work goes into this sport and I’m happy that my colleagues and I had the opportunity to recognize the team’s accomplishments today.”

Senator Joe Griffo noted the team’s talent and enthusiasm.

“In the North Country, hockey players and their families are used to early mornings and weekend practices as an accepted way of life,” said Senator Griffo. “These players skated through their regular season and worked hard through the playoffs, all the way to the championship game. It was a good day to recognize their accomplishments and share our pride with their coaches.”

The St. Lawrence Thunder won the New York State Tier II Championship earlier this spring, in a hard fought game against a Long Island team. The Thunder fell behind 3-0; before rallying to score four unanswered goals in the final 24 minutes. They claimed victory with a final score of 4-3. The team went on to place second in the national competition.

Coaches Bobby Smith, John Hart, and Todd Manning were also honored.

“Standing behind the St. Lawrence Thunder is a dedicated team of coaches, who not only mentor, but inspire these young athletes,” said Senator Ritchie. “They—along with a dedicated group of family, friends and fans back home—were instrumental in pushing the team to excellence.”

In addition to being presented with official Legislative recognition to commemorate their achievements, the St. Lawrence Thunder also took a tour of the Capitol, and joined Senator Ritchie and Senator Griffo for a pizza lunch.