



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Seward Honors 2015 Woman Of Distinction - Patricia Kennedy

JAMES L. SEWARD May 5, 2015



ALBANY, 05/05/15 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today honored Patricia Kennedy of Oneonta as the 2015 Senate “Woman of Distinction” from the 51st senate district at the 18th annual senate Women of Distinction ceremony at the Capitol.

“Over the years, I have been fortunate to highlight a number of inspirational, trailblazing leaders through the senate’s Women of Distinction program, and this year is no different,” said Senator Seward. **“Patricia Kennedy has been a driving force in the care of developmentally disabled individuals and her compassion for their well-being and innovative ideas have changed lives for the better.”**

Patricia Kennedy serves as chief executive officer at Springbrook, a not-for-profit, state-licensed organization serving over 850 people with developmental disabilities from across New York State and beyond. The Otsego County based facility employs more than 1,200 individuals and is a recognized leader in its field.

2015 Senate Woman of Distinction honoree Patricia Kennedy said, "I am grateful for this award and to all the people, past and present, who support me and Springbrook, including my family, friends, and coworkers."

Kennedy has received many accolades for her work including being named the 2005 New York State Developmental Disabilities Council Administrator of the Year. Under Kennedy's leadership, Springbrook has expanded services greatly to include residential, educational, therapeutic, and community support options that span a person's lifetime.

"Patricia Kennedy's contributions are wide ranging and touch many lives. The personal, one-on-one relationship she has with each and every individual at Springbrook can simply not be quantified, and because of her compassion, families know their loved ones are in good hands. Further, she is a driving force in our regional economy – once again making a positive difference in the lives of so many. Patricia embodies the meaning of a true 'Woman of Distinction' for all of her inspiring and continuing contributions," added Seward.

Along with honoring the Women of Distinction, the senate also adopted a special resolution (J.1927) congratulating the honorees.

The senate's "Woman of Distinction" program was created in 1998 to honor New York women who exemplify personal excellence, or whose professional achievements or acts of courage, selflessness, integrity or perseverance serve as an example to all New Yorkers.

Previous winners in the annual event have included leading women from the worlds of business, academics and civic life, as well as those who have performed heroic or selfless acts,

made significant discoveries or provided examples of personal excellence against difficult odds.

-30-