



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David Carlucci

## Senator Carlucci Honors Ossining Resident as "Woman of Distinction"

DAVID CARLUCCI May 5, 2015

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Senator David Carlucci (D – Rockland/Westchester) honored Dream “The Dreamster” Shepherd at the New York State Senate’s annual “Woman of Distinction” ceremony on May 6, 2015 in Albany, NY.

The Women of Distinction Ceremony is an annual event that honors leading women from across the state for their achievements in business, academics and civics, as well as those

who have performed heroic or selfless acts, made significant discoveries or provided examples of personal excellence against difficult odds.

Dream Shepherd, an Ossining resident, was born with sickle cell disease. The hereditary blood disorder resulted in complications for Dream, including chronic pain and a stroke at five years old.

“Dream is an exceptional young woman, and it is an honor to be able to pay tribute to everything she has done for our community,” said Senator David Carlucci. “She is being recognized not only for her bravery and spirit, but for her passion to help others.”

Even while battling her own health issues, Dream has been busy raising awareness and funds for sickle cell disease. In March of 2014, Dream was named Grand Marshal of the 10th Annual Go the Distance Walk and Family Fun Day for Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital, where she lead thousands of supporters for the event’s signature “Stroll Around Campus.” From Dance-A-Thons, to marketing campaigns and radio “Roof-a-thons” Dream has worked tirelessly to show others how young people can be active and excel, even while battling chronic medical conditions.

“It was very special receiving this award,” said Dream Shepherd. “I liked meeting other women that take on and change the world. I am happy to let other kids know they can fight and win too.”

In December, Dream was hospitalized and placed in isolation for almost four months. She endured vigorous and invasive procedures in preparation for the transplant, including chemotherapy and radiation. Today, Dream stands as a victor over sickle cell disease and continues to cheer up children with chronic medical conditions, while being an active student, Girl Scout, artist, novice fashion designer, and “Hula Hoop Extraordinaire.”