



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph E. Robach

## Gerri Spino Honored as Woman of Distinction

JOSEPH E. ROBACH May 14, 2014

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Senator Joe Robach will recognize Gerri Spino of Greece with the New York State Senate's 2014 Woman of Distinction Award in Albany.

The "Woman of Distinction" program was created in 1998 as part of the Senate's celebration of Women's History Month and honors New York women who exemplify personal excellence, or whose professional achievements or act of courage, selflessness, integrity or perseverance serve as an example to all New Yorkers.

In 2004, Gerri Spino's son, Scott, was tragically struck and killed by a repeat drunk driving offender. Scott's passing was a monumental loss for the entire Spino family. Since her retirement from Excellus Blue Cross and Blue Shield five years ago, Gerri has dedicated her time to serving as President of the Scott

Spino Foundation. The Scott Spino Foundation was established in loving memory of her son Scott, and is focused on supporting programs that provide education, coaching and mentoring to children within the community.

“I am proud this year to honor Geri for all of the wonderful contributions she and the Spino Foundation have made to the Rochester community.” Senator Robach added. “Geri’s passion and her unwavering love for her son, Scott, has made the greater Rochester area a better place for our children and families, and she is a most deserving ‘Woman of Distinction’ from the 56<sup>th</sup> Senate District.”

Since its inception, The Scott Spino Foundation has invested \$300,000 in the greater Rochester area and has made a lasting impact in the community. A few of the foundation’s accomplishments include twenty-five scholarships awarded, and more than 12,500 new coats and over 14,000 new hats distributed to twelve schools. In addition, the Scott Spino Literacy Program has distributed over 22,000 new books to children.

Geri has been a guest speaker at various events where her presentations focus on drinking and driving and making good life choices. Geri is the proud recipient of the SAANYS (School Administration Association of New York State) Friend of Education. She has also been awarded the Greece Community Service Award for her positive and enriching influence on the lives of children in the community. As President of the Scott Spino Foundation and dedicated volunteer at the Villa of Hope and the Angels of Mercy, Geri has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

“I would like to express my gratitude to Senator Joe Robach for nominating me for the “Woman of Distinction Award. I am excited, deeply moved and honored to be receiving such a prestigious award. It has left me with a lasting reminder of the strength that lies within me to persist in my efforts to make a difference in the life of a child.”

Spino will be recognized in a special ceremony on Tuesday, May 13 at the State Capitol in Albany. Her photograph and biography will be displayed in a public exhibit proclaiming the special contributions of exemplary New York women.