



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

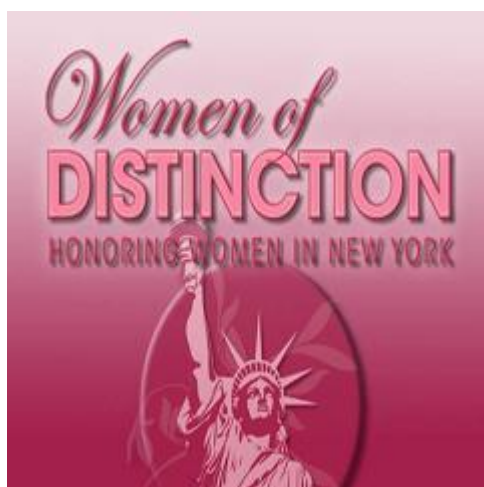
Joyce Willetts

JOHN J. BONACIC May 13, 2015



Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Joyce Willetts, Ph.D.



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Award: HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Year: 2015

Joyce Willetts, Ph.D., was born and raised in England. After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology from the University of Hertfordshire, Dr. Willetts immigrated to the United States. Over the next 10 years, she continued to pursue her education, culminating in a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology. After working as a senior research scientist and an associate director of regulatory affairs for several different pharmaceutical companies, in 1996, Dr. Willetts formed her own company, Palanquin Corporation in Florida, New York. Palanquin Corporation provides pharmaceutical consulting and medical writing services.

Dr. Willetts is a loving mother to her son, John, and devotes her time, expertise and passion to the Florida Union Free School District. Dr. Willetts helped to bring the PTA-sponsored Science Fair to a new level, and under her guidance, student participation grew from 10% to over 40%, inspiring students to experiment and explore science. While serving on the district's Wellness Committee, Dr. Willetts was instrumental in obtaining a grant to purchase a cafeteria salad bar and construct an on-site outdoor multipurpose trail. This trail is used not only as a classroom, but also as an approved course for the cross-country teams.

Dr. Willetts' commitment to her community extends well beyond the reach of her involvement with the schools, also touching the lives of all town members. Working with the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Willetts began editing and publishing a local newspaper - The Florida Focus. Through her hard work and diligence, it became a vital way for important community and school district information to be shared with residents.

A charter member of the Seward Homestead Restoration Committee, Dr. Willetts' preservation of the Mapes House was a priority. She helped secure a \$400,000 grant from the New York State Historical Preservation Office to help with the cost of restoration.