



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Ritchie Recognizes Clayton Mayor Norma Zimmer as 2019 "Woman of Distinction"

BRIAN DWYER May 10, 2019

| ISSUE: **WOMAN OF DISTINCTION**



Nominated by Senator Ritchie for her commitment to the New York State and the North Country, Village of Clayton Mayor Norma Zimmer was among the outstanding women from across New York State who were honored at the New York State Senate's 2019 "Women of Distinction" ceremony held at the State Capitol earlier this week.

The New York State Senate launched its “Women of Distinction” program in 1998 to recognize the many contributions of women in New York State who have devoted themselves to their communities, excelled in their careers and inspired those around them to make a difference. Through the program, Senators from across New York State honor women in their districts at a ceremony held in Albany.

“Mayor Zimmer is a shining example of the impact one person can have when it comes to positively influencing people’s lives and improving their community,” said Senator Ritchie. “She is proof that, at any age you can make a difference and it’s my pleasure to recognize her as a Woman of Distinction.”

“I cannot thank Senator Ritchie enough for not only her nomination, but for her understanding of just how important it is for women to take an active role in their communities,” said Mayor Zimmer. “This is a special moment and I am happy to have shared it with Senator Ritchie, who does so much for the Village of Clayton, and all the other nominees who have made wonderful contributions to communities across New York State.”

Born in 1934, Mayor Zimmer grew up in the Cortland, New York area before moving to Clayton in 1961. Shortly after arriving in Clayton, Mayor Zimmer became involved with the local planning board, library board and pre-school board.

Mayor Zimmer was also elected as a village trustee before becoming the Village of Clayton Mayor, a position she still holds at the age of 84. Her work to draw businesses, both large and small, to this Thousand Islands village is one of the major reasons it has truly flourished in recent years.

In addition to her work as Mayor, Mayor Zimmer—who is a mother of three and a grandmother—still holds a full time job working for the world-renowned Antique Boat

Museum. She also serves as a volunteer with the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, and in 2013, was recognized as the organization's "Citizen of the Year."

Never one to stop learning Mayor Zimmer went back to school later in life, earning a degree in the tourism field from Jefferson Community College. The education she received helps her to better promote Clayton and the wonderful tourism opportunities it offers to visitors.

(In the attached photo, Senator Ritchie is seen presenting the 2019 NYS Senate Women of Distinction Award to Clayton Mayor Norma Zimmer)