



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Ritchie Honors Kinney Drugs With NYS Senate Empire Award

BRIAN DWYER August 2, 2019

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During a recent tour of its headquarters in Gouverneur, State Senator Patty Ritchie honored local drugstore chain Kinney Drugs with the New York State Senate’s “Empire Award” for the company’s contributions and charitable efforts across Central and Northern New York.

“While the company has grown throughout the years, Kinney Drugs has demonstrated a very special combination of neighborhood service, small town values and community involvement that has helped make its stores distinctive parts of the communities they serve,” said Senator Ritchie.

“I am honored to be able to present them with the Senate’s Empire Award, and wish Kinney Drugs, as well as its many dedicated employees, all the best for continued success in the future.”

Burt Orrin Kinney, a native of Gouverneur, founded Kinney Drugs in 1903. He opened the first drugstore in Gouverneur’s downtown business district, where it continues to serve generations of North Country residents today. In 1962, as Kinney Drugs began to grow, it build a distribution center in Gouverneur to serve stores throughout Central and Northern New York, as well as Vermont. Today, Kinney Drugs has approximately 100 stores and is 100-percent employee owned, making it one of largest of its kind in the entire nation.

In 2002, the Kinney Drugs Foundation was created to serve the needs of communities in Upstate New York and Vermont. The Kinney Drugs Foundation has provided more than \$11 million to local charities that support the sick and disabled, disease research, disaster relief, children’s charities, humanitarian efforts and public awareness of specific health risks.

The New York State Senate "Empire Award" recognizes excellence in business. Its recipients demonstrate leadership in their industry, innovation, job creation, economic growth and contributions to its community.

In the above picture, Senator Ritchie (center) is seen with Gouverneur Mayor Ronald McDougall (left) and Kinney Drugs KPH Healthcare Services Vice President of Financial Planning Michael Burgess (right))