



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pamela Helming

Statement from Senator Helming on Passing of Former Assemblyman Gary Finch

PAMELA HELMING May 6, 2023



Statement from Senator Helming

Gary was a mentor and guide to me, beginning when I first took office.

He spent so much time teaching me and showing me the ropes. Whether it was sitting at the back of the Assembly providing guidance on language for the Finger Lakes Community Preservation Act, or sitting in his beautiful historic home in Cayuga County strategizing about how best to help local businesses and homeowners impacted by flooding — he gave freely of his time, was patient with my questions, and always kind, helpful and gracious.

I remember sitting with Gary in my car for more than two hours while he brought me up to date on local “politics.” He was the first state representative who showed me he believed I could be successful. Gary used to say I didn’t have to worry about filling someone else’s shoes — I just had to walk in my own.

It was just recently that I sent Gary a text with a photo hanging in an Assembly office where members of both parties often gather at the end of the day. It’s an official photo of Gary and a dedication to him. Always a statesman and gentleman, he responded wanting to know how everyone was doing.

Gary never sought recognition for himself. He served only to help others.

With a grateful heart for his friendship and service, I will miss him, and extend my condolences to his wife and family.