

Senator Pam Helming

Representing the 54th New York Senate District



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Senator Helming Presents Patty Hotchkiss with NYS Senate Commendation Award



L-R: Town Supervisor Jared Simpson, Patty Hotchkiss, Senator Pam Helming, Mayor Bob Palumbo

Senator Pam Helming today presented Patty Hotchkiss of Canandaigua with a New York State Senate Commendation Award in recognition of her 30 years providing free Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to those in need in the community. The award honors an individual who exemplifies the spirit of community, philanthropy, and leadership.

Senator Helming said, “Patty is the definition of a servant leader, dedicating her life to serving others, with a personal passion to support those most in need. It’s easy to take for granted a homecooked meal, yet for too many people in our community, it’s a struggle to put food on the table. While Patty helps individuals experiencing food insecurity year-round, her holiday meals have always been a bright spot for local families and Veterans. I know Patty does not seek credit for any of her work, but she deserves it, and I am honored to show my appreciation, and the community’s appreciation, by presenting Patty with this award. She is an example for all of us.”

Patty Hotchkiss is the former longtime owner of Patty's Place restaurant in downtown Canandaigua. Each year, she brings together a team of about 30 volunteers to serve and deliver 200 free meals at both Thanksgiving and Christmas time. These 400 annual meals include special deliveries to low-income and Veteran housing, in addition to donated meals to the Canandaigua Police and Fire Departments. Many local businesses and residents contribute money and in-kind donations to support this community effort, with the Canandaigua Elks Lodge providing use of its kitchen to prepare and package meals.

Canandaigua Mayor Bob Palumbo, presenting Patty with a City Proclamation, said, "Patty Hotchkiss is a true Canandaigua community gem. Over her 30 years of community service, she has provided much more than a warm meal, she has provided a family atmosphere and warm smile to all."

Canandaigua Town Supervisor Jared Simpson, presenting Patty with a Town Proclamation, said, "Patty Hotchkiss embodies the heart of Canandaigua—a servant leader whose 30 years of dedication have nourished not just stomachs, but spirits. Her warm meals and warmer heart remind us all of the power of community, compassion, and a shared table."

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