

NYS SENATOR TOM O'MARA

53rd District

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Press Release

O'MARA, STATE SENATE WILL HONOR LOCAL 'WOMAN OF DISTINCTION'

*Dormann Library director will represent O'Mara's
53rd District in statewide tribute*

Albany, N.Y., May 17—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats) announced today that Carol Berry of Hornell, a long-time regional library professional and currently director of the Dormann Library in Bath, will be honored next Tuesday in Albany as a "Woman of Distinction" by the New York State Senate.

The Senate's "Women of Distinction" program, which began in March to coincide with Women's History Month in New York State, allows senators statewide to select one honoree from their respective legislative districts. Berry is the inaugural honoree for O'Mara, who's in his first Senate term after being elected last November.

Berry, who began her career in 1980 as the school librarian at Hornell High School, was nominated for this year's award by Lorraine Patti, president of the Board of Trustees of the Dormann Library, where Berry has been the director since 2003.

Patti said, "The Board of Trustees of the Dormann Library is delighted that Senator Tom O'Mara has chosen Carol Berry for this distinguished award. She certainly deserves this recognition. The Dormann Library has flourished under her direction. She has provided great vision which has allowed the library to expand its programs and services for patrons significantly. We are certainly fortunate to benefit from her vast knowledge and expertise, and it is because of her hard work and dedication that our library continues to grow."

O'Mara noted that Berry is widely respected as a local library professional. In addition to her tenures at Hornell High School (1980-1990) and the Dormann Library (2003-present), from 1990-2002 Berry helped guide the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES library system and concluded her time there as Supervisor of Library Media Services.

Berry will represent O'Mara's 53rd Senate District and join honorees from across New York at the Senate's 14th annual "Women of Distinction" tribute on May 24th. The awards ceremony will be held in the Legislative Office Building, where Berry's biography and photo will be displayed as part of a special Senate exhibit.

"The Senate tribute says it best, 'Wherever Carol Berry goes, a high quality library is sure to follow.' It's a well-deserved testament to an outstanding life's work. Local libraries play a vital role in shaping the quality and strength of our local communities and schools, and Carol Berry has dedicated her career to building and leading high quality libraries across our region. Her work has been inspiring and she's made an enormous difference in the lives of so many area students, families, seniors and everyone else for whom a library is a lifeline," said O'Mara, whose legislative district encompasses Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County (the city and town of Ithaca, and the towns of Enfield, Newfield, and Ulysses).

Following is the biography of Berry that accompanies her "Woman of Distinction" award:

Wherever Carol Berry goes, a high quality library is sure to follow. For more than three decades she has dedicated her career to developing and guiding successful library systems for schools and communities across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions.

After graduating from Empire State College and earning a Master's degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo, Ms. Berry began her professional career in 1980 as the school librarian at Hornell High School.

She continued her education at SUNY Brockport, was certified as a school district administrator and, in 1990, joined the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES as the coordinator of the school library system. She would become Supervisor of Library Media Services at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and remain in that position until 2002. During this time, she also served as president of the School Library Systems Association, as a representative to the New York State Staff and Curriculum Development Network, and as treasurer of the New York State Council of Educational Associations.

Since 2003, Ms. Berry has been the director of the Dormann Library in Bath, New York. She is a member of the Hornell City School Board, serves as adjunct faculty at the University at Buffalo, and is Immediate Past President of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Women Educators, Mu Chapter. In 2008, she was recognized with the prestigious Paul Harris Award by the Bath Rotary Club.

Ms. Berry lives in Hornell, New York, where she enjoys spending time with family and friends. Her family includes three daughters: Cynthia, who is the Director of Therapeutic Foster Care for Kinship; Debra, a nurse for the Pro Action Wick Program; and Barbara, a special education teacher for the Greater Southern Tier BOCES. Her son, Richard, is an independent painting contractor.