



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mario R. Mattera

Senator Mattera Awards Liberty Medal To Heroic Commack School Aide

[Mario R. Mattera](#)

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ISSUE:

- [Heroism](#)
- [New York State Senate Liberty Medal](#)
- [Commack School District](#)



Senator Mario R. Mattera (2nd Senate District) recently presented the New York State Senate Liberty Medal to Commack School Monitor Francesca Augello for her actions to help a 2nd grade student who was choking.

During lunch break on Friday, March 8th, 2024, Ms. Augello noticed that 2nd grade student Grayson Molina had his head down and was coughing. Believing that the student was choking on a piece of pizza, she went to him and asked him if he felt okay and if he could talk.

When the young student did not respond, Mr. Augello took action by performing the Heimlich Maneuver. Her actions dislodged the food and save Grayson's life. Ms. Augello was thrilled that she was able to save Grayson saying: "You just have to pay attention and be aware what's going on in the cafeteria."

"Francesca's quick thinking and rapid action helped save the life of Grayson. She is a hero and I am very proud to present her with the New York Senate Liberty Medal. Her awareness saved the Molina Family and the entire Commack school from a tragedy, so I hope she is as proud of herself as we are. Great job Francesca," stated Senator Mattera.

The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was created in 2000 and is one of the highest civilian honors that a New York resident can receive. It is awarded by the New York State Senate to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts and achievements on behalf of their fellow

New Yorkers.