



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Pete Harckham

Harckham Honors SD40 Resident in Recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

PETE HARCKHAM June 18, 2025

| ISSUE: **SENATOR HARCKHAM. SD40, ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC-ISLANDER (AAPI), AAPI MONTH, AAPI AWARENESS**



: State Sen. Pete Harckham with Eleanor Kwei in the Peekskill Senate District Office

Peekskill, NY – In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, New York State Senator Pete Harckham honored Eleanor Kwei, an exemplary resident of the 40th Senate District, for her contributions to the arts, her compassion, and an unwavering commitment to strengthening her community.

“One of the Hudson Valley’s greatest strengths is its diversity, and it’s essential that we take time to celebrate it,” said Harckham. “The Asian American and Pacific Islander community has made profound contributions—not only to the history, economy, and culture of the Hudson Valley, but to our nation as a whole. Eleanor Kwei is a shining example of that impact. Through her dedication and talent as an illustrator, she has built an impressive career while giving back generously, by both uplifting fellow artists and championing environmental stewardship. Thank you, Eleanor, for everything you do.”

The commemorative ceremony took place on Monday, June 16, at the Senator’s district office in Peekskill, where Kwei was presented with an official New York State Senate proclamation. Members of her family were present to share in the occasion.

Eleanor Kwei began her distinguished career in illustration after graduating from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Over the years, she has contributed to iconic literary properties such as *Winnie the Pooh* and authored five books on art. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Eleanor is deeply involved in fostering the arts locally through the Croton River Artisans Gallery and her support of the Croton-on-Hudson Arts and Humanities Advisory Council.

A passionate environmental advocate, Eleanor also lends her energy to local sustainability efforts, including organic community gardens and Croton100, a community group focused on climate action and environmental responsibility.

“Thank you, Senator Harckham, for recognizing me with this award,” said Kwei. “I’m grateful for all the opportunities I’ve had since moving to the United States over 30 years ago. I’m happy to give back and contribute to the greater good with whatever abilities I have.”

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrated each May since 1991, honors the enduring contributions of AAPI individuals to the history, culture, and progress of the

United States.