



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Steven D. Rhoads

Senator Rhoads Awards Wantagh's Timothy Jaccard with New York State Liberty Medal

STEVEN D. RHOADS July 9, 2025

| ISSUE: **AWARDED LIBERTY MEDALS, LIBERTY MEDAL, NYS LIBERTY MEDAL**



WANTAGH, NY — Senator Steve Rhoads proudly presented the New York State Liberty Medal — the State Senate's highest civilian honor — to Wantagh resident Timothy Jaccard, Founder and President of the AMT Children of Hope Foundation, during a special ceremony following the Wantagh Independence Day Parade.

Mr. Jaccard, a retired paramedic with the Nassau County Police Department, has devoted his life to protecting the most vulnerable members of society: abandoned infants. His journey began in the 1990s, when he responded to numerous heartbreaking calls involving deceased newborns. Moved by the tragedy, he began arranging dignified burials for these children — an act of compassion that evolved into a national movement to prevent infant abandonment.

Driven by a mission to save lives, Mr. Jaccard helped pioneer Safe Haven laws across all 50 states. These laws allow parents in crisis to safely surrender newborns at designated locations like hospitals, police stations, and firehouses without fear of prosecution. His advocacy also led to the creation of the Baby Safe Haven organization, which offers life-saving resources and alternatives for families in crisis. His efforts have saved the lives of over 5,000 infants nationwide.

“Timothy Jaccard’s selfless service and tireless advocacy are nothing short of heroic,” **said Senator Rhoads.** “His work has brought dignity to lives lost, hope to parents in crisis, and a future to thousands of children. He exemplifies the values that the Liberty Medal was created to honor.”

As a proud Wantagh resident, Mr. Jaccard continues to serve as a beacon of compassion and courage. Through education, awareness campaigns, and direct intervention, he has reshaped public perception and helped build a society that offers support — not shame — to those facing unthinkable circumstances.

The New York State Liberty Medal is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts and achievements on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers. Timothy Jaccard’s legacy of life-saving work, leadership, and love for his community exemplifies the very best of New York State.

Learn more about The AMT Children of Hope Foundation:

<https://www.amtchildrenofhope.com/AboutUs.php>