



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Todd Kaminsky

Rockville Centre teen who biked 100 miles for autism awareness honored by Senator Kaminsky

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ISSUE:

- [Constituent Corner](#)
- [Youth](#)



Rockville Centre teen, John Rigazio, was recently honored by Senator Todd Kaminsky for his extraordinary efforts to support and raise funds for autism awareness and research.

Rigazio, who just completed his junior year at South Side High School, participated in Bike to the Beach on June 10th, to support autism awareness. John completed a 100 mile course that spanned from Battery Park in New York City, to West Hampton Beach, on a tandem bike with his father, Joseph. His mother, Jacqueline, met them in Wantagh to complete the trip. John's team, Team Talisen, had 25 riders and raised a total of \$40,000 for autism awareness and research, with some of the funds going towards Autism Speaks.

John trained for 3 months every weekend, and each weekend increased his distance, up to 65 miles weeks prior to the event. He was also a member of the track team at school this spring, which helped build his stamina tremendously.

Senator Kaminsky said, "I am blown away by John's tenacity and spirit. John represents the absolute best of the South Shore, and it was my privilege to recognize his stellar accomplishments."

"The whole family is so honored and excited for this recognition," said Jacqueline Rigazio. "We are extremely dedicated to continuing to raise funds and awareness for autism."

John and his parents visited Senator Kaminsky's office on June 26th, where he was presented with a proclamation to recognize his efforts and advocacy.