



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## O'Mara seeking local nominations for the Senate's 21st Annual 'Women of Distinction' tribute

THOMAS F. O'MARA February 20, 2018

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**Elmira, N.Y., February 20**—With the approach of the celebration of Women's History Month in March, State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) today announced that he is accepting nominations until Friday, March 16th for the Senate's 21st annual "Women of Distinction" program to honor local women making outstanding contributions to area communities.

The Senate's "Women of Distinction" program begins in March to coincide with a variety of Women's History Month celebrations in New York State. O'Mara and his Senate colleagues annually select one new "Woman of Distinction" honoree from their respective legislative districts. This year's honorees will be invited to an awards ceremony and reception in Albany in early May.

"The 'Woman of Distinction' tribute is a meaningful recognition. I look forward to this annual opportunity to recognize an outstanding area citizen," said O'Mara, whose 58th Senate District encompasses all of Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties, and part of Tompkins County (the city and town of Ithaca, and the towns of Enfield, Newfield and Ulysses). "We all know someone who makes an enormous difference to the community at large. Whether she is a service provider, a teacher going above and beyond the call of duty, a businesswoman, or simply a community resident known for her good deeds, I'd like to see her recognized."

O'Mara has named the following local "Women of Distinction" throughout his tenure in the Senate: **Carol Berry** of Hornell, a long-time regional library professional and director of the Dormann Library in Bath (2011); **Virginia "Ginny" Houseknecht** of Watkins Glen, a local Cornell Cooperative Extension educator and leader, and founder of the Southern Tier Parkinson's Disease Support Group (2012); **Beverly "Bev" Stamp**, co-owner and operator of Lakewood Vineyards in Schuyler County, and a beloved ambassador of New York State's nationally and internationally renowned wine and grape industry (2013); **Lauren R. Snyder** of Penn Yan, a well-known public health professional in Yates County who served as the county's Public Health Director for 28 years before retiring in 2009 (2014); **Linda Thomas**, longtime owner and operator of the Wellsburg Diner in the village of Wellsburg (2015); **Dawn R. Smith**, Transition and Care Management (TCM) Program Manager at the Bath VA Medical Center and a well-known local veterans' advocate (2016); and **Carmella Hoffman**, Owner and Operator of Sunset

View Creamery in Odessa, Schuyler County (2017).

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, March 16, 2018.

Nominations can be submitted online [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).