



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie Honors Watertown Savings Bank with "Empire Award"

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At a recent visit to the Watertown Savings Bank's main branch on Clinton Street in Watertown, State Senator Patty Ritchie presented the bank with the New York State Senate "Empire Award" for its charitable work in the North Country.

"The Empire Award is meant to honor local businesses that go above and beyond everyday business. Not only is the Watertown Savings Bank a leader in Jefferson County, but its contributions to our communities, our people and our various organizations are what makes it the perfect business to present this award," Senator Ritchie said. "Watertown Savings Bank truly has made a significant and lasting impact on many lives."

Watertown Savings Bank is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. It first opened in 1893 after a small group of people wanted to create a financial institution that served not only customers, but also the entire community. In its 125 years, Watertown Savings Bank has grown to eight locations countywide. The bank currently employs 125 people and handles \$60 million in assets.

It has also created the Watertown Savings Bank "Giving Tree", which has provided more than \$325,000 in scholarships to local students and support for various charitable organizations and community projects. In 2017, Watertown Savings Bank was named the "Top Community Supporter" by New York State Banking Magazine.

During her visit, Senator Ritchie was able to meet with Watertown Savings Bank C.E.O. Mark Lavarney, learn more about its work in the community and see some of the bank's historic artifacts.

The New York State Senate Empire Award recognizes excellence in business. Its recipients demonstrate leadership in their industry, innovation, job creation, economic growth and contributions to its community.

***(In the picture above, Senator Ritchie is seen presenting Watertown Savings Bank C.E.O. Mark Lavarney with the 2018 "Empire Award")***