



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin Thomas

# **Old Bethpage Teen Honored with New York State Commendation Award for Raising \$20K for Cancer Research**

[Kevin Thomas](#)

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New York State Senator Kevin Thomas recently presented 18-year-old Derek Zacchino of Old Bethpage with the NYS Commendation Award to recognize his exceptional service and contributions to his community and New York State. Mr. Zacchino, who played for the Bethpage High School Hockey Team, has raised more than \$20k for pediatric brain tumor research following his own battle with Glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer.

"The New York State Senate Commendation Award is one of the highest honors that I as Senator can present, and it is reserved for a select few individuals each year who have gone above-and-beyond in support of their community," said Senator Kevin Thomas. "Derek's selflessness, dedication, and fighting spirit have made a lasting impact on our community, and the thousands of dollars he has raised for cancer research will help save lives. Derek's story is an inspiration to all of us, and I could not be more proud to present him with this honor."