



## SENATOR JIM ALESI



**Community Update: 05/16/12**

### **2012 “Woman of Distinction” Judge Patricia Marks Honored in Albany**



*I am proud to announce that Patricia Marks, Interim President and CEO of Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., has been selected as a 2012 “Woman of Distinction.” I welcomed Judge Marks to Albany on May 15<sup>th</sup>, where she was honored at a ceremony at the State Capitol.*

There are remarkable women in our midst whose lives, work and accomplishments contribute to enhancing our communities, strengthening our families and serving as role models to others. The Senate’s Women of Distinction program provides an opportunity to honor women, like Judge Marks, for their achievements and to thank them for the pride they bring to our communities. I am proud to recognize Judge Marks as this year’s “Woman of Distinction” for her tireless work, volunteerism and commitment to our community.

A graduate of Vassar College and Albany Law School at Union University, Judge Marks began her legal career as a Monroe County Assistant District Attorney in 1976, where she quickly earned the respect and admiration of her peers. In 1984, as an accomplished trial attorney and chief of the newly established Economic Crime Bureau, Judge Marks left the District Attorney’s office to become a Monroe County Court Judge, where she served until her retirement in January 2011.

The Senate’s “Women of Distinction” program was created to honor New York women who exemplify personal excellence or whose professional achievements or acts of courage, selflessness, integrity or perseverance serve as an example to all New Yorkers. Judge Marks represents the 55<sup>th</sup> Senate District and joins honorees from across New York at the Senate’s annual “Women of Distinction” tribute. The awards ceremony and reception were held in the Legislative Office Building, where Judge Marks’ biography and photo were displayed as part of a special Senate exhibit.

Please visit my website to view Judge Marks’ full [biography](#) and view a [video](#) from her visit to Albany.

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### **Senator Alesi Sponsors SAFER Criminal Justice Professional Appreciation Awards Ceremony**



I was proud to join SAFER (Survivors Advocating for Effective Reform) to sponsor this year’s *Criminal Justice Professional Appreciation Awards Luncheon*. The awards recognize those individuals in the criminal justice field who have impacted the lives of domestic violence victims – providing safety, understanding and support. I was honored to accept a Certificate of Appreciation from SAFER as I continue my efforts to have a positive impact on the lives of domestic violence victims and survivors through legislation and community involvement.

Every day, individuals in the criminal justice field bravely face the task of providing much-needed help and support to victims of domestic violence. It is fitting that we recognize and honor these individuals who have improved and even saved lives in our community. It is often through their support that victims begin to heal. I was proud to join with SAFER in sponsoring the event as we recognize National Police Week May 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. This annual ceremony is a time to raise awareness about the challenges domestic violence victims face on a daily basis and the important impact of those who provide services and support to victims.



SENATOR

Jim  
**ALESI**



Survivors Advocating For Effective Reform

**proud to sponsor:**

## Criminal Justice Professional Appreciation Awards Luncheon

# **Congratulations to this year's award recipients!**

### **Senator Jim Alesi / Senate Passes Protection of People with Special Needs Act**

The Senate today passed legislation I Co-Sponsored to strengthen protections for more than one million New Yorkers with special needs. The Protection of People with Special Needs Act (S.7400), unveiled by Governor Cuomo, would establish the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs to prevent, investigate and prosecute the abuse and neglect of individuals with special needs who are served by facilities and programs operated, licensed or certified by State agencies.

Children and adults in New York State with special needs are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect. By working with Governor Cuomo, I am confident that this legislation is an important first step in preventing further instances of abuse and neglect and will provide families and friends a greater peace-of-mind that their loved ones are safe and well cared for. I am proud to Co-Sponsor this comprehensive bill to ensure stronger protections for our most vulnerable citizens, and to hold abusers accountable for their actions.

The legislation includes the following provisions that would create standard definitions for “abuse” and “neglect;” create the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs; strengthen criminal statutes that make abuse of vulnerable or disabled persons a crime; and promote transparency by requiring non-state operated and provider agencies to disclose the same records relating to abuse and neglect as state agencies are required to under the Freedom of Information Law.

Click [here](#) to view additional responsibilities for the new Justice Center.

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