



Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Patricia Harris

Patricia Harris is a truly remarkable woman who is an inspiration to all and a shining example of what it means to live a life dedicated to serving others. She has spent her entire life living in Levittown and Hicksville, passionately focused on public safety, volunteerism, and her family.

Her journey began at the young age of 17, when she became a lifeguard and learned the importance of safety and remaining vigilant in times of crisis. These skills would prove to be invaluable as she continued to serve her community in various roles. Ms. Harris took these skills with her when she became a Nassau County Police Department Crossing Guard, honing her awareness and protecting our children from harm. Her reverence for life only grew when she became a Nassau County Corrections Officer, where after a 32-year career, she retired as Captain of the Police Academy. Instilling the lifetime of values she has learned upon the young cadets — the value of life, the vigilance to crisis, and the willingness to serve and protect — Ms. Harris worked and trained every member of the Department for approximately 15 years.

While Ms. Harris' professional life was fulfilling and rewarding, her personal life is just as full. Having gotten married when she was just 18 years old to her childhood sweetheart, they were blessed with four beautiful children by the age of 24. Tragedy hit and stole Ms. Harris' husband and father of her children away after four years. Ms. Harris persevered to provide a stable home through her dedication and service to others. Thanks to their combined efforts, all family members lead successful and healthy lives. Today, Ms. Harris has 11 grandkids ages 13-29 years old.

In 2020, Ms. Harris was forced to retire due to a cancer diagnosis. However, she has since recovered and is now happily enjoying her retirement. Throughout her years of service, she was a powerful and dedicated figure, known as the "mother hen" of the jail. Ms. Harris continues to be the glue that holds her family together, ensuring that everyone loves and respects each other through thick and thin. For her service to the community, tenacity, and loving heart, we are honored to present Patricia Harris the award of Woman of Distinction!

***Patricia Harris was selected as a
2024 Women of Distinction honoree by Senator Steven D. Rhoads***

