



# Women of DISTINCTION

## HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

*Toni Norton*

Toni Norton, a remarkable 96-year-old, has etched an enduring legacy in Senate District 52, embodying a lifelong commitment to social justice and community service. Born into a world of change and adversity, Ms. Norton emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, weathering the test of time.

As a widow and mother, Ms. Norton's nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family, influencing the broader community. For over 30 years, she played a pivotal role in the NAACP Broome Tioga Branch, serving as Chair of the Legal Redress Committee. She is active on the Executive Committee and has been a member for more than three decades. Her transformative advocacy for racial justice significantly contributed to the ongoing fight for equity in the Southern Tier.

Ms. Norton's spiritual journey led her to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, where she became an integral member. Under her guidance, the Congregation became a symbol of hope, spiritual growth, and compassionate action in the community, aligning seamlessly with her commitment to justice.

Amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Norton's adaptability and generosity shone through in her involvement with the Eroica Fund of the Binghamton Philharmonic. Initially established to honor patrons who donated their tickets to the Fund during COVID, it evolved into an annual campaign supporting the less fortunate.

As a founding member of Justice and Unity in the Southern Tier (JUST), Ms. Norton continues to play a vital role in essential legal actions, advocating for improved conditions for prisoners. In addition, she continues to work in advancing resources to reduce recidivism for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Ms. Norton served as a board member for ACCORD, continuing to mediate for the organization focused on conflict resolution in her retirement. Her involvement with the League of Women Voters emphasizes her commitment to civic engagement and the democratic process.

Ms. Norton's life and legacy exemplify the transformative power of an individual dedicated to justice, compassion, and community service. She creates an enduring mark on those fortunate enough to cross paths with this extraordinary woman. As a racial justice advocate and community leader, Ms. Norton not only embraces the work of peace through justice, but embodies it throughout her remarkable life and unwavering commitment to our community and State.

***Toni Norton was selected as a  
2024 Women of Distinction honoree by Senator Lea Webb***

