

Senator Pam Helming

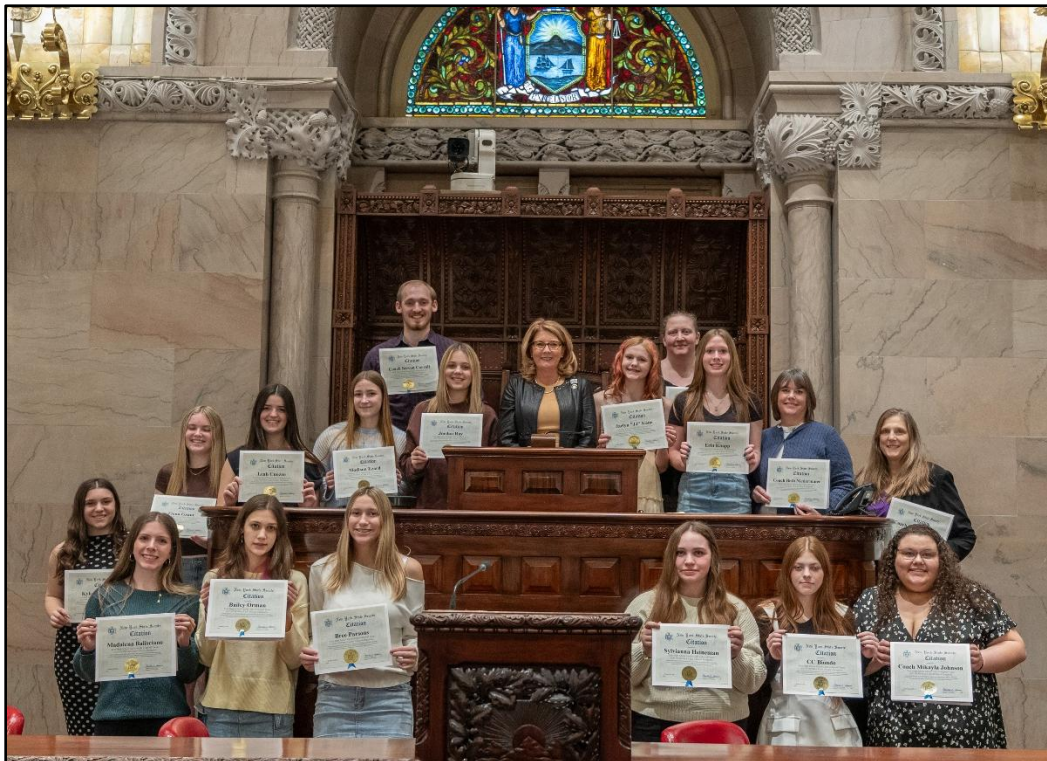
Representing the 54th New York Senate District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tanner Schmidt (315) 568-9816

SENATOR HELMING HONORS YORK GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM AT STATE CAPITOL FOR HISTORIC CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



Albany, NY – Senator Pam Helming today welcomed the York Golden Knights Girls Varsity Volleyball Team to the New York State Capitol, where they were honored on the Senate floor for winning the 2025 NYSPHSAA Class D State Championship.

The team captured the first state title in program history with a dominant three-set victory over the defending champion Candor Coyotes, capping off a remarkable season defined by resilience, belief, and an unbreakable bond.

“After falling short in the sectional finals twice, this team came back stronger, more focused, and ready to make history,” said Senator Helming. “What they accomplished this season is a testament to their hard work, their belief in one another, and the leadership they showed every step of the way. We are incredibly proud of these young women and the example they set for our schools and communities.”

Following the graduation of nine seniors the previous year, the Golden Knights entered the season with just two returning starters and only one senior on the roster. What could have been a rebuilding year quickly became something special.

This team built a bond that extended far beyond the court. The night before games meant team dinners, and in the locker room, they prepared side by side, listening to their favorite pump-up songs like “Golden” and “Soda Pop.” Those moments brought energy, built confidence, and reminded them that their moment to shine was right in front of them.

They also carried with them a message that became part of the program’s identity. Passed down from a former head coach who now serves as an assistant coach, it was simple but powerful: the night before each game, “Sleep well. Dream big.” And on game day, “You’re a winner.”

That belief showed.

Their championship run was fueled not just by talent, but by trust in one another and a shared mindset that defined their season: third time’s the charm.

Senator Helming recognized the following student-athletes on the Senate floor: Madalena Balisciano, Jordan Ray, Bailey Orman, Erin Knapp, Jaelyn "JJ" Kane, Bree Parsons, Fiona Grant, Madison Ezard, Kylee Koronas, Leah Cuzzo, Sylvianna Heineman, and CC Biondo.

The team is led by Head Coach Kaitlin Kolb and Assistant Coaches Mikayla Johnson, Lonni Carroll, Beth Niedermaier, and Steven Carroll. Senator Helming also acknowledged Athletic Director Kurt Schneider, Principal Charlie Passarell, and Larry Holbrook for their support of the program.

“This team showed what is possible when you put in the work, support one another, and never give up,” said Senator Helming. “Their success is a source of pride for the entire York community. Congratulations on an unforgettable season and a well-earned state championship.”

##