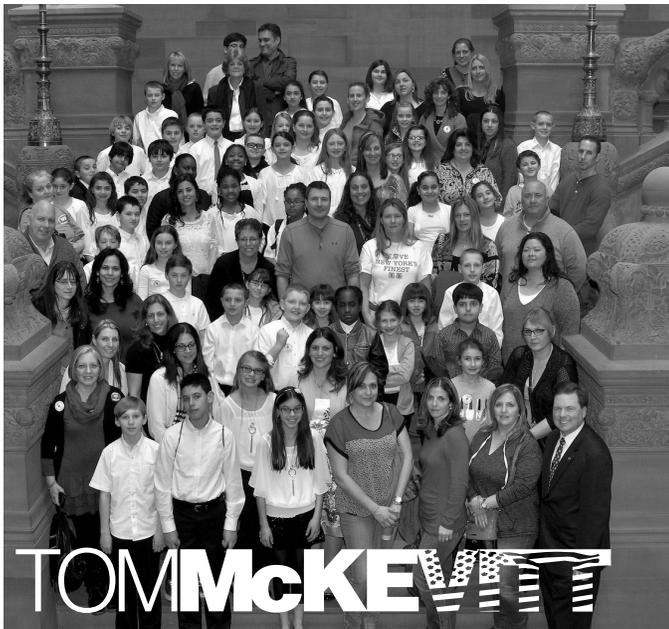


A Special Update and Invitation

from Assemblyman Tom McKevitt



Help Your Voice be Heard!

- Participate in Long Island Community Coat Drive
- Learn about Local Women Making a Difference
- Join Tom's Fight to End Domestic Violence
- Resources to Protect Against Breast Cancer
- Legislative Update and more...details inside

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Dear Neighbors:

I work hard to ensure your views are represented at our State Capitol. Inside you can learn more about my efforts, and help me advocate for causes that are important to our community, such as helping protect New Yorkers – particularly children – from domestic violence and resources to better protect yourself from breast cancer.

Every year I ask our community to nominate local Women of Distinction to help promote the hard and often selfless work so many women do in our neighborhoods, schools, local governments and businesses. Inside you can learn more about some of the women honored this year as well as an update on past recipient Lindsay Gruntorad, who continues her philanthropic spirit with her 10th Annual Coat Drive. I hope you will consider joining me by making a donation, and will consider nominating female role models you know for the 2016 Women of Distinction event.

Please share your views with me at [Facebook.com/AssemblymanTomMcKevitt](https://www.facebook.com/AssemblymanTomMcKevitt) or by emailing my office at mckevitt@assembly.state.ny.us to join the conversation and stay updated on my progress fighting for you in our State Capitol.

As always, my concerns are yours – and I want to hear from you. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

Working for you,

Tom McKevitt



Women of Distinction Recap

It was with great pleasure that I hosted my annual 17th Assembly District Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony. Not only is this a fantastic way to honor the contributions and dedication of women we look up to, but it's also a celebration that brings together a variety of groups in our community. Thank you to all of this year's participants, including the Massapequa American Legion Post 1066 Color Guard, Seaford Middle School Woodwind Ensemble, Farmingdale Public Library, and the guest speakers and businesses throughout the district who generously donated their time and support to make this year's event a success.

Every year I am amazed at the stories of selflessness as our community nominates women who inspire them. This year nine women were nominated, joining the ranks of the 143 women honored since I began this tradition in 2007.

This year's recipients included a special education expert, specializing in speech-language pathology; a former college dean and higher education advocate with a doctorate in Spanish and Latin American Studies; an education advocate, civic leader and grandmother; an educator and advocate for the homeless, with a love of sharing traditional Caribbean music; a Girl Scout Leader, PTA member and volunteer fire department EMT; a special education and ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher; a musician, teacher and animal advocate; a first-generation American attorney; and a globe-trotting astronomy supporter for whom an Observatory and a main-belt minor planet are named.

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees!

Breast Cancer Information

Early detection is key to beating cancer and I hope this information will be valuable to you or to someone you know.

Q: Who is at risk for developing breast cancer?

A: Every woman is at risk. Risk increases with age and family history.

Q: What can I do to detect breast cancer as early as possible?

A: Be proactive by following the American Cancer Society's 3-step early detection program:

1. Have regular mammograms, starting at age 40.
2. See your doctor for regular breast exams as part of your annual health check-up.
3. Practice monthly breast self-exams. Your health care provider can teach you the proper way to do a thorough self-exam, or the American Cancer Society also has resources available.

Please remember: not all lumps are cancerous, but to be sure you should see your doctor – even if you've recently had a mammogram. Early detection is key.

10th Annual Coat Drive

Please join me and 2014 Women of Distinction honoree Lindsay Gruntorad to help our neighbors in need by donating your gently used winter clothing items to her 10th Annual Coat Drive. Warm clothing items such as coats, hats, scarves, gloves and sweatshirts in all sizes are needed and can be donated at my office at 1975 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 202 in East Meadow. Over the years Lindsay has collected and distributed over 5,000 coats to Long Islanders! Let's help keep the momentum growing. For more information about the drive, please contact my office, or Lindsay at keepnywarm@yahoo.com or at www.Facebook/KeepNYWarm.



Protecting Families and Encouraging Economic Equality

For the last few years, I have been calling for state leaders to put partisanship aside and allow individual votes on a legislative package aimed at:

- increasing public protection
- securing legal rights for victims of domestic violence
- ending workplace sexual harassment, and
- prohibiting pregnancy discrimination at work.

I am proud to say that our calls were heard and the bills were passed by both houses. This is an agenda that supports all New Yorkers, especially

children who are the innocent victims of domestic violence. To further protect New Yorkers against violence, I am calling for an immediate vote in the State Assembly on the Domestic Violence Prevention Act - Brittany's Law. This bipartisan bill was named after a 12-year-old girl who was brutally murdered by a convicted violent felon. Brittany's Law would create an online, public database of convicted violent felons (similar to the existing sex offender database) allowing you to better protect yourself and your loved ones. **Please join me in calling for a vote on this important bill by signing my online petition: www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Tom-McKevitt.**

Breast Cancer Hotline Numbers

Adelphi University
1-800-877-8077
Support service hotline; phones attended by breast cancer survivors

1-in-9, The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
(516) 374-3190
Action phone line; updated information; instant referrals; support meetings

New York State Department of Health
1-800-458-1158
Recorded message – but follow directions to speak to a person

National Cancer Institute
1-800-422-6237
Cancer information services on causes, prevention, detection and rehabilitation

American Cancer Society
1-800-227-2345

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