



Small Business Highlight



After 55 years of working together you could say the dry cleaning business was a match made in heaven for Sue and John Ritter.

They came from opposite ends of New York State for different careers. John, back from serving in Korea, moved to Syracuse to work in his uncle's construction business. Sue came from Buffalo for a teaching job in North Syracuse. John happened to bring his work shirt to One Hour Martinizing where Sue moonlighted as a counter clerk. He continued to bring his

dry cleaning every week, to that shop in Williams Grocery plaza until Sue agreed to go out on a date with him.

The romance continued there while Sue trained John for an opening at the expanding dry cleaners where he eventually became manager in 1968.

John and his "angelic" teacher married the following year on July 12, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church. John likes to boast that he teed off at Bellevue Country Club by 2:00 that afternoon and played 18 holes of golf!

The Ritters took up residence and started a family in the Village of North Syracuse. On his daily commute down Route 11 to One Hour Martinizing John would pass Squire Cleaners. Eventually, he stopped in, looked around and let the owner know that he would be very interested if Squire ever decided to sell the business at 403 Main Street. Three short years later they made a deal and Ritter's Cleaners was officially opened on Friday the 13th, 1972.

After college, John Ritter Jr. started working at the cleaners full time and has been busy keeping this business alive and well for the next generation to benefit from the personal service that a family run shop can provide.

Thank You to the Ritters!



"I have been bringing my dry cleaning to Ritter's since I bought my first home in 1983 right down the street on Palmer Drive. Ritter's is a classic example of the Mom & Pop businesses that have always been the heart and soul of America."

2023 Budget Town Halls



Dozens of residents gathered to attend one of four town halls sponsored by Assemblyman Stirpe to hear directly from him about the proposed Executive NYS budget. Meetings were held in Cazenovia, Cicero, Clay and Fayetteville in February and March for constituents to ask questions and voice their concerns. The proposed executive budget indicates all funds spending of \$227 Billion for 2023-24. As the legislative budget discussions extend beyond April 1st, Assemblyman Stirpe will continue to fight for the programs and initiatives to enhance the lives of residents of the 127th.

To Contact our Office:
7293 Buckley Rd
North Syracuse, NY 13212
315.452.1115
stirpea@nyassembly.gov

Celebrating This Year's Women of Distinction

Since 1987, we have celebrated March as Women's History Month as a way to honor the countless women who have triumphed over adversity, established themselves as cultural icons and made their mark on the world. To coincide with the annual celebration, Assemblyman Stirpe hosted the 11th Annual Women of Distinction awards ceremony to recognize some of the remarkable women right here in Central New York who have changed our communities and made significant impact on the lives of others. This year's honorees were:

Andrea Stukeley Colella for **Dedication to Community Service**.

Andrea is a Syracuse native and Syracuse City Schools graduate who is the founder of From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. (FTGU). She studied Equine Science and Therapeutic Recreation at SUNY Cobleskill and later attained her Horsemanship Association Riding Instructor certification, as well as several other equine and therapeutic certifications. She has dedicated her adult life to providing programs and services to people of all abilities and needs in the Central New York area.



Dr. Karen Teelin for her **Outstanding Service in Health Care**.

Karen is an Adolescent Medicine and Pediatrics Specialist, serving as the Director of Adolescent Medicine at Golisano Children's Hospital and an associate professor of pediatrics at SUNY Upstate's Norton College of Medicine. Karen is passionate about adolescent health, providing affirming care for transgender and non-binary children for Central New York and beyond.



Gretta Miles **Exemplifies Success in Business**. Gretta is



a certified public accountant (CPA) with an expansive work history, most recently as the Financial Reporting Manager, Controller and Assistant Treasurer of Carrols Restaurant Group. She often volunteers her time and talents to assist with local church finances, PTO, clubs and more, including serving on the board of the Wayne Cooperative Insurance Company as Chair of the Audit Committee and member of the Risk Committee.

Alexandra Galler is recognized for her **Remarkable Volunteerism**.

Alexandra "Sandi" is always seeking out new ways to be of service to others in our community. A natural leader, Sandi Serves as co-President of the local PTO, was a Religious Education Teacher and runs a prayer group at Northside Baptist Church. She is a valued volunteer at: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, the Samaritan Center, Sister Sister, Northside Baptist Church, the Rescue Mission and Francis House. She also supports Housecalls for the Homeless and the Food Bank or Central New York.



Amy Ayten Ay for her **Contributions to Education**. Amy has consistently gone



above and beyond to support her students, colleagues and community, especially to reach underrepresented children at Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School. Amy has taken this same dedication to out-of-school efforts, such as coaching the science bowl varsity team, running an international women's book club and volunteering as a counselor for Salaam Magazine. Amy has taken over 200 students to prestigious conferences to present their research and science projects.



Damary Diaz-Pease for her **Outstanding Service in Health Care**.

Damarys "Dee" Diaz-Pease has served Crouse Hospital as a level 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse for over 40 years, caring for some of the hospital's most vulnerable patients. She went above and beyond for the care of all of her patients and her fluency in Spanish has proved vital to the hospital in her translations to anxious families. In her private life, Dee also volunteers for the March of Dimes Preemie Fashion Show, the Preemie Reunion and the annual Ronald McDonald House Homecoming.

Upcoming Events: April 21, 11 am – 1 pm

Earth Week **CANAL CLEAN SWEEP** Help clean up the Canalway Trail with Assemblyman Stirpe! Meet at N. Burdick Street trail-head of the Old Erie Canal Park in Fayetteville. Click here to register.



CANALCLEANSWEEP

Reaching Out to Help Our Pets



This past holiday season was a little brighter for pets in our area **thanks** to donations from **constituents in the 127th**.

The economic fallout of the pandemic had placed an extra burden on pet owners, as well as shelters that were helping pets without a place to call home.

Assemblyman Stirpe's Pet Supply Drive partnered with local business owners and organization to collect these necessary supplies to benefit the Kia Foundation, Humane CNY and Helping Hounds Dog Rescue. Over 1,200 pounds of pet food and many blankets, leashes, beds, cleaning supplies, towels, collars, treats and sweaters were collected and distributed.

Many thanks to:

Cicero Country Max
Liverpool Chamber of Commerce
Tops Friendly Markets in Fayetteville
Marisa's Fortress of Beauty
Earthwise Pet Supply
Hairy Notions
Amazon

SAVE THE DATE!

SUMMER & FALL E-RECYCLING EVENTS:

Saturday - August 5, 2023
East Syracuse Minoa High School

Saturday - October 14, 2023
Great Northern Mall

FREE! Pre-registration Link Coming Soon

Valentines for Veterans

After reaching out to our local schools to participate in our Valentines for Vets initiative, we were overwhelmed with the great response. Teachers from all over the district including Cazenovia, East Syracuse Minoa, Fayetteville Manlius and Liverpool embraced this idea and we had an outpouring of beautiful Valentines. We also had colleges, Girl Scouts and local parents participate. The Assemblyman's staff were able to deliver close to **1000 Valentines** to local Veterans through the VA Hospital, VFW posts, American Legion Posts, Senior Centers and Clear Path for Veterans to brighten their day. Thank You for helping make their day a little more special.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR OUR 16TH ANNUAL LIFESAVERS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday • July 18
11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Driver's Village
5885 E. Circle Drive, Cicero

This is "not your average blood drive!"
Come and donate with the help of our partners at the American Red Cross

Live Music • Gifts • Prizes

Registration will be open in June



**American
Red Cross**