

Press Release Press Release Press Release Press Release



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

For Immediate Release

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Once a West Babylon Eagle, always an Eagle



Shown with Legislator Tom Cilmi are Assistant Principal Shawn Hanley, Principal Ellice Vassallo, Legislator Kevin McCaffrey and Assistant Principal Stephen O’Leary

Legislator Tom Cilmi delivered the keynote address at the West Babylon High School Principal’s Quality Achievement Awards Ceremony. Cilmi is a graduate of West Babylon School District.

The annual awards ceremony recognizes leadership and exceptionalism among ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students in a variety of areas of study including but not limited to language, music and the arts, English, history, math, science, athletics and vocational education.

Detailing some of his memories from school, Cilmi thanked faculty, administration and staff for the work they do saying, “Neither greater purpose nor greater rewards exist than in the education of a child.”

He went on to talk about the relevance of school and the importance of relationships throughout life. He talked about the “twists and turns” throughout his career and how keeping an opened mind and building relationships has helped him succeed. Cilmi said, “In many ways, those years made me who I am as a person. Build more relationships...more bridges, you will cross more rivers and explore more opportunities.”

Cilmi spoke about being a victim of bullying in junior high school and overcoming it. Two stories from high school sparked laughter among students. Cilmi described how his biology teacher threw a dead frog out the door in an example of what not to do in lab. He also told of how his physics teacher poked fun at Cilmi’s acne, asking him if his guitar blew up in his face.

The 1982 graduate charged the students with this final remark. “Fellow Eagles, your experiences here at West Babylon have given you a great foundation on which to build your bridges. Your education here has given you all the basic tools to begin building those bridges. The rest is up to you.”