

NEWS FROM Legislator

# Lou D'Amaro



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## Legislator D'Amaro Honors Melville Resident As Local Senior Citizen of the Year



*Clara Abbatiello of Melville receives a Proclamation from Legislator D'Amaro as District 17's  
2014 Senior Citizen of the Year*

(more)

*(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... June 10, 2014)* – Clara Abbatiello, a dedicated and beloved volunteer in the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Senior Companion Program, was recently honored by Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) as District 17's 2014 Senior Citizen of the Year. The Melville resident has been enhancing the lives of developmentally disabled adults at a local day rehabilitation center since 2007.

Volunteering between 25-30 hours per week, Ms. Abbatiello has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her "friends" at the center. She shares her creative talents and love of arts with the rehabilitation center program participants as she patiently guides them through the special craft activities and takes joy in their completed projects. Ms. Abbatiello accompanies many disabled individuals on weekly "Community Inclusion Trips" to local stores and also joins them on recreational field trips.

In addition to her volunteer work as a Senior Companion, each year Ms. Abbatiello makes hundreds of scarves and other apparel items for Suffolk County Special Olympic athletes who wear the scarves with pride during the games.

"Through her selfless acts, Clara Abbatiello has clearly demonstrated her desire and commitment to enhancing and improving the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents," said Legislator D'Amaro. "Simply put, she is a special woman who is extremely well-deserving of this year's Senior Citizen of the Year Award."

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*Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Education & Information Technology and Human Services committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.*