

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Champions of Our Community Honored by the Suffolk County Legislature!

Hauppauge, NY -Legislator Spencer had the honor of presenting proclamations to Rosemarie & Jim Gaines, Chief Eric Bruckenthal, and Irene & Arthur Sniffin at the November 17th General meeting of the Legislature. "These influential individuals have dedicated years of their lives to the betterment of the people in the Huntington area, and represent the heart and soul of our community." said Legislator Spencer. "Their continued commitment to improving life in the 18th Legislative District is appreciated by the citizens of Suffolk County and we thank them for their contributions."



Legislator Spencer with Reverend Rosemarie Gaines, and her daughter Reverend Kim Gambino

As the founders of The Helping Hand Rescue Mission, the Gaines Family has dedicated 50 years of selfless service to those in need. After witnessing a bedridden mother of 3, who had no food or proper beds, Reverends Rosemarie and the late Jim Gaines invested everything they had to open a charity in Huntington Station, with the idea that if they could help even one family, it would be worth it. Rosemarie and Jim rented a small store with the \$125.00 left from their honeymoon money, and opened their doors to the community with a working capital of .25 cents. Since 1965, they have run the Island's first rescue mission and one of the first food pantries in the area.

Sadly, Jim Gaines passed away after faithfully serving the community for 45 years, however, Rosemarie and their daughter, Reverend Kim Gambino, continue the fine work of the rescue mission. With gratitude, we applaud and honor your support in our community!

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Chief Eric Bruckenthal (center), with Lieutenant Michael Cook, executive officer of the Northport PD (left), and his wife Pat (center) accept a proclamation from Legislator Spencer (right).

Chief Eric Bruckenthal retired in September from the Northport Village Police Department after 37 years on the force. After graduating from Queens College and John Jay College with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and police science, he began his career as an officer in Asharoken Village. Seeking a little more activity, Ric joined the Northport Police Department in 1978. As the Chief, he was known to be a motivated and strong advocate for the village residents, and is remembered for his fairness, empathy and dedication to public service. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. It is well-deserved!



Arthur and Irene Sniffin with Legislator William R. Spencer.

Irene and Arthur Sniffin have been dedicated volunteers at the Huntington Historical Society for over 40 years. In the last 12 years alone, they have logged more than 9,000 volunteer hours, and this past year they were recipients of the Historical Society's President's Award. The Sniffins contribute to the Society in a variety of different ways. Among many other things, if you need assistance with an archival investigation or researching your genealogy, they are the people to help you! Thank you for your dedication to preserving our local history and helping residents discover their own.

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