Reflecting on the Departure of Leaders So Important to the Irondequoit Community

Week of December 17, 2018

As we wind down this year, Irondequoit finds itself in a period of transition within many leadership posts, particularly those outside of Town Hall. We should use time like this to reflect on the achievements of those departing and be grateful for their efforts to help make our community stronger.

This theme of transition began, sadly, with the loss of our beloved Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, who represented Irondequoit in the United States House of Representatives with distinction. It would be hard to contribute any new words of admiration that haven’t already been spoken about Louise during these past several months. She remains a role model and inspiration for many leaders in our area, myself included, and perhaps our favorite “honorary” resident in Irondequoit.

Despite losing Louise Slaughter’s leadership, tenacity and grace, I am confident that Congressman Joe Morelle, a proud Irondequoit resident, will serve with distinction and help ensure her legacy endures. It would be difficult to overstate how much, as our Assemblyman, Joe Morelle has worked to better this community. Through his leadership, he has secured essential funding for many important projects in our Town that will enhance quality of life in the Irondequoit community for generations to come.

Combined, we have lost nearly six decades of seniority in the State Assembly and US House of Representatives. I do not see this as cause for concern, because we have representation that is deeply committed to the Irondequoit community. We will continue to look to our State Senator Rich Funke for continued support, something he has provided in earnest. We will also welcome a new State Assembly member, Jamie Romeo. A lifelong Irondequoit resident, Assemblywoman-elect Romeo has the experience, the sound mind and the toughness to ensure Irondequoit’s voice is heard in the State Capitol.

This year has also proven to be a very dynamic time for both Irondequoit school districts with the pending retirements of East Irondequoit Superintendent Susan Allen and West Irondequoit Superintendent Jeff Crane. Their leadership has helped solidify one of our Town’s strengths: quality educational systems in a community that is affordable for working families. I speak frequently to new home buyers and our schools are perhaps our strongest selling points as a community.

Superintendents Crane and Allen will also be remembered for their efforts to work collectively to support the entire community of Irondequoit. They worked to minimize the significance of a school district border that has historically divided our Town. I will forever be grateful for their hard work, recently, in helping form our Town’s drug coalition, which very much needed our school systems’ buy-in. They not only made the districts a partner in that effort but became personally involved.

This truly is a dynamic time for our community. We should be grateful for the leadership we’ve received from so many thoughtful, hard-working and passionate individuals. With the guard changing in so many posts, I am optimistic about what the future holds for Irondequoit.