



# Peggy Lillis Foundation

Fighting C. diff through Education and Advocacy

## Advocate Award Golden Intro – Victoria Amari

Good evening, and thank you again for supporting the Peggy Lillis Foundation. One of the driving forces in the creation of this Foundation was the desire to support and advocate for those living with C. diff.

Advocacy comes in many forms and means different things to different people. It can mean working to educate – educate the public, patients or even the healthcare community. It can mean supporting patients and their families in their personal experiences with C. diff. Or it can come in the form of lobbying and working with the government to enact change in policy, whether we're talking about reforming reporting policies, fighting for more responsible use of antibiotics or working to improve patient safety.

Our Advocates Award honors people working to achieve one or more of these forms of advocacy for public health and to protect the health and wellness of our communities.

Over the years, we have honored C. diff patients working to support others in their fight against C. diff, families like The Dexters, who have taken their loss and turned it into a way to help others living with C. diff. And government officials who have dedicated their lives to helping others and fighting for the health, wellness and safety of our communities.

As Liam said earlier, tonight's advocacy award recipients exemplify what it takes to make a difference in the fight against C. diff.

For many of us, our first Advocacy Award recipient needs no introduction. Senator Martin J. Golden was Peggy's councilman and local representative, and the representative for many of us in the room. He has spent his entire career in the service of others, starting with his ten-year tenure as a New York City Police officer. After retiring from the police force in 1983 due to a serious injury while making a narcotics arrest, Senator Golden moved into politics.

His political career has allowed him to continue helping others in a number of ways that have contributed to the public health of our community.



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- He has long been an advocate for the public school system that Peggy loved as well as a passionate champion for our state's senior citizens.
- As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, Senator Golden was credited by nationally recognized advocacy groups for championing the rights of senior citizens through the Assisted Living Law of 2004. Under his leadership, a number of significant bills affecting older Americans have been enacted, including:
  - a new Elderlaw, the Senior Bill of Rights
  - Long Term Care Reform
  - Internet posting of retail prescription drug prices
  - and the establishment of a single EPIC/Medicare prescription drug card.
- Senator Golden wrote the law that raised the senior citizen rent increase exemption – or SCRIE – from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for seniors and the disabled.

What distinguishes Senator Golden's career in public service, however, is his emphasis on community service and his ability to bring back funding for important community programs including those focused on health care, education, transportation, law enforcement and senior citizens.

- Senator Golden procured \$36 million to create a dynamic and robust biotechnology industry in Brooklyn that holds the promise of thousands of high-quality career jobs in Brooklyn.
- Senator Golden continues to support the advancement of cutting edge industries that are creating jobs for the new marketplace. This includes working to ensure the continued expansion of the biotechnology industry, the protection of tax breaks for businesses, and the full utilization of the commercial and retail space in locations such as the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Industry City.

Senator Golden's work also exemplifies the "it takes a village" mentality in how he has spent his career building up and supporting his community. There is no better example of this than his office's actions immediately following 9/11. As the representative of the 43rd Council District in the New York City Council, in the days and weeks after 9/11, Councilman Golden's office coordinated the shipment of more than 200 truckloads of food, clothing, and materials to the volunteers working at "Ground Zero" and helped to establish the first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT 1 NYC) in New York State.



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This community approach and desire to help and protect others is essential in our fight to make c. diff rare, treatable and survivable

So, in recognition of his outstanding advocacy for public health and the well-being of New York's citizens, we present our Advocacy Award to Senator Marty Golden.