

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING
County Legislator, 3rd District
Public Safety Committee, Chair



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Media Release

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COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Legislator Browning Honors Sgt. Paul Mercready for Moriches Bay Rescue



(Legislator Kate Browning, right, presents proclamation to Sgt. Paul Mercready.)

Riverhead, NY – On Saturday, May 24 Suffolk County Police Sargent Paul Mercready rescued a suicidal woman from drowning in Moriches Bay, in Mastic Beach. Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) honored Sgt. Mercready for his heroic efforts at the Suffolk County Legislature’s general meeting on June 17.

A woman walked past a group of teenagers and into Moriches Bay fully clothed. A number of the teenagers attempted to swim out to the woman to rescue her, but turned back because the water was too cold and they saw her go under and they did not expect to find her. When they returned they called 911.

Sgt. Paul Mercready was nearby and responded to the scene immediately. Sgt. Mercready saw something pink floating approximately 50-yards in the bay and swam fully clothed in his police uniform to the woman. When Sgt. Mercready arrived, he was about to perform several rescue breaths, but the woman opened her eyes. Sgt. Mercready pulled the woman to shore. The woman was suffering from hypothermia and transported to Stony Brook University Hospital where she recovered.

“Every day our brave men and women of the Suffolk County Police Department put their lives on the line to protect our communities,” stated Legislator Browning. “Sgt. Mercready didn’t hesitate to enter very cold waters to rescue this woman, and she is alive today because of it. He is a hero.”

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