

## COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**KATE BROWNING**

County Legislator, 3rd District  
Public Safety Committee, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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### Media Release

September 8, 2016

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# Legislator Browning Recognizes WBC Light Heavyweight Champion Joe Smith Jr. from Shirley



*(Pictured left to right: Trainer Phil Capobianco, Legislator Kate Browning, Joe Smith Jr., Joe's mother Marie Smith, and Trainer Gerry Capobianco.)*

**Riverhead, NY** – Joe Smith Jr. grew up in Shirley as the eldest of seven brothers and one sister. He began boxing at thirteen years-old as a way to stay off the street and out of trouble. Having risen through the ranks with devastating knockouts, Joe “The Irish Bomber” Smith Jr. recently won the WBC International Light Heavyweight championship on June 18, 2016. To recognize his great success, Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) presented Joe with a proclamation at the Suffolk County Legislature’s September 7, 2016 general meeting.

Joe Smith Jr. is a union worker and member of Local 66 between fights. His nickname “The Irish Bomber” is fitting, with seventeen of his twenty-one career victories coming by way of knockout. Joe’s rapid rise up the light heavyweight ladder is impressive, fighting under Joe DeGuardia’s Star Boxing Banner.

Joe Smith Jr. has enjoyed similar success as a professional as he did in the amateur ranks, where he captured multiple titles including the Title World Champion in 2006, Junior Olympic Champion in 2004, 2005, and 2006, Empire State Champion in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and the New York Metro Champion in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

In 2008 he celebrated the birth of his daughter and just weeks later became a New York Golden Glove Champion with an impressive win over Sean Monaghan. Joe turned pro in October 2009 winning his debut fight on Halloween by first round knockout.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 during the WBC International Light Heavyweight Title Bout at UIC Pavilion, Joe Smith defeated Andrezej Fonfara. Joe was the underdog and it was a major upset victory. Showing great poise for someone with no experience in major fights, Joe took his time and moved in purposefully to land twelve unanswered punches, ending with a left-hook, straight-right combo that put Fonfara down for the second time and ending the bout.

“I am so proud to have known Joe since he was a child riding to school on my bus,” said Legislator Browning. “He has grown to be a true champion that has channeled his energy into being the best boxer out there. I look forward to seeing him continue to succeed and we are all rooting for our hometown boy to bring home more titles.”

Joe is also a great human being. While attending the Legislature’s general meeting he was inspired by another resident being honored, Keith Caputo. Joe immediately donated to Keith’s non-profit Helping Makes you Happy Inc., which raises funds for charitable causes here in the local area.

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