

16th ANNUAL SIMONA & JEROME A. CHAZEN BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Keynote Speaker US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



Kirsten Gillibrand is a current Senator and former Representative of New York. She was born in Albany, N.Y. on December 9th. She grew up in Upstate New York in a family committed to public service. Her grandmother worked in the New York State Legislature at a time few women did and was a trailblazing grassroots organizer. Her father was a public defender and her mother was a lawyer who taught Kirsten about the importance of representing those without a powerful voice of their own. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 1988 and from

University of California Los Angeles Law School in 1991. She was a lawyer in private practice and special counsel at United States Housing and Urban Development.

Kirsten was elected to the 110th Congress and served from January 3, 2007 to January 26, 2009. She resigned to become a U.S. Senator and was appointed on January 23, 2009 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hillary Clinton. She was elected in 2010 in a special election for the term ending January 3, 2013, reelected in 2012, and again in 2018 for the term ending on January 3, 2025.

In just her first term in the Senate, Kirsten led the effort to repeal the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that banned gay people from serving openly in the military and passed the historic 9/11 health bill, which ensured that first responders and 9/11 survivors got the healthcare they deserved. More recently, she passed major legislation to give benefits to veterans exposed to toxic burn pits overseas, passed the first-ever federal law making domestic gun trafficking a crime, and reformed the military justice system on behalf of service members.

In the Senate, Senator Gillibrand is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee and is chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. In addition, she is a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, where she has fought for dairy pricing reform on behalf of New York farmers and increased nutrition assistance for children, seniors and veterans. Senator Gillibrand also serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee with a focus on cybersecurity and on the Senate Aging Committee.

Her home is in Albany, New York, where she grew up. She and her husband Jonathan have two boys, Theo and Henry.