

# LETTERS

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## Sen. Johnson was an able advocate

It has been my honor and pleasure to know Sen. Owen Johnson (R-West Babylon) for 20 years. His never-ending generosity to the community never ceases to astound me ["Johnson served us well," Editorial, July 18].

In 1992, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I realized that Suffolk County had no breast cancer awareness organizations. I was also concerned with the number of women in my area diagnosed with breast cancer and how many of lived on dead-end streets, and that a local company had been dumping harmful chemicals into the ground. With those concerns, I met with the senator to see if he could secure funding for a scientific evaluation of a survey to create an incident map in West Islip.

Johnson not only got the funding for the survey, but he remained an avid supporter of our cause. This support has resulted in raising awareness about breast cancer and the importance of early detection. Without him, we would have never been able to receive the funding to validate the scientific findings of the mapping project.

New York State was very fortunate to have had such an extremely dedicated individual in the Senate. With his retirement, there will be a seat that will be very difficult to fill.

*Lorraine Pace  
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**Editor's note:** The writer is the president of Breast Cancer Help Inc.

OPINION

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