Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Connie Kepert joined Legislator Kate Browning recently to celebrate the installation of officers for the Brookhaven Fire Department.

"These brave citizens lay their lives on the line on a volunteer basis and I have nothing but the highest respect and admiration for every one of them," said Connie Kepert. "This special evening was truly enjoyable for me and well deserved for these brave men."

"Our brave volunteers put their lives on the line every day to guarantee our safety," added County Legislator Kate Browning, who was on hand for the festivities. "It was an honor to spend another special evening with our Brookhaven heroes. Thank you for all you do for our communities."

The following officers were honored for their exemplary service this past year:

- The 2009-2010 Lincoln Quappe Rookie Of The Year Award was presented to Ryan Barone.
- The 2010 Chiefs Award was presented to Ronald Dutcher, John German, and Treavor Jones.
- An Award of Appreciation was presented to Clark Champey for 15 years of dedicated service.

The Brookhaven Fire Squad Award was given to eight individuals who showed extreme bravery during the January 1, 2010 Shirley gas leak. The following individuals were instrumental in the efforts to contain the leaking gas and have proven themselves to be true heroes: Bruce Mazza, Giuseppe LoIacono, Richard Palmer, Matthew Palmer, Jefferey Connors, Kevin Martin, Robert Halverson, and Jerome Vitale.