Farmingville, NY – On February 26, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright, Councilman Michael Loguercio, Councilman Neil Foley and Councilman Daniel Panico joined over two hundred guests as the Town of Brookhaven's Black History Commission hosted its 25th Annual Celebration at Town Hall. The evening’s program included the presentation of Academic Achievement Awards to Brookhaven’s top 51 African-American high school seniors from 10 school districts who achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. (pictured).

The theme of this year’s Black History Month Celebration was “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories.” The evening included an interpretive dance performance of “Glory” by Autumn Lesley; the unveiling of the 39th Black Heritage Series Postage Stamp depicting Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; a cultural drum performance by Edwina Tyler and a choral selection by Kirsandra Seaton. Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright, the first woman of African American descent to serve on the Town Board, was this year’s honoree.

About the Black History Commission

In 1991, a Black History Month Committee was formed in observance of Black History Month. Two years later, the then-Town Board established a permanent Black History Commission to provide continuity in planning and organizing a Black History Night celebration each February. The purpose of these celebrations is to acknowledge and honor the contributions of Black Americans, both nationally and locally, while fostering an appreciation for Black culture and heritage in our your people.

Recognizing that celebrating Black culture should not be limited to one specific month, in January 2014 the Town Board unanimously passed a resolution expanding and broadening the scope of the Black History Commission. This afforded the residents of Brookhaven the opportunity to attend the first ever Juneteenth event hosted by the Town on June 19, 2014, and has since become a new annual tradition.