

# Brookhaven Town Board Honors Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at Day of Service Luncheon

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**Farmingville, NY** – Monday, January 16, was the first annual Martin Luther King Day of Service Luncheon for the Town of Brookhaven. At the request of Supervisor Edward Romaine, Town Councilmember Valerie Cartright and Marvin L. Colson, Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare of Stony Brook University organized the day of service and reflection befitting the legacy of Dr. King.

Planning committee members, Brookhaven Town staff and community residents coalesced in the spirit of Dr. King's vision, bringing together nearly 300 individuals including many clergy members, civic and chambers of commerce leaders as well as church groups from across the Town. The luncheon, held at the Mill Pond Country Club in Medford, was followed by service project activities. Participants packed over 400 hygiene kits for families living in

poverty in the United States and around the world, or to be used to aid victims of natural disasters. Other projects included letters written to U.S. military veterans, educational activities about Dr. King, songs by Sweet Melody Music Studio Inc., speeches interpreting Dr. King's philosophies, dancing, poetry and storytelling. Event sponsors included: EOC Suffolk, Stony Brook University, Peggy Foy, Esq. and Faith Baptist Church.

Supervisor Romaine said, "It was important that Brookhaven Town acknowledge the leadership and accomplishments of such a great American. It was our first Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon and we hope to continue this tradition for many years to come. I commend the committee and the co-chairs, Councilwoman Valerie Cartright and Dr. Marvin Colson, for their work to organize this very successful Town sponsored event."

"If we continue to work together as a community, beyond designations of race, gender, politics, religion and economics, we will continue to make positive changes" said Councilmember Cartright. "Our first luncheon, which focused on service, is consistent with Dr. King and the enormous legacy he left."

In an effort to promote community service in Brookhaven all year long, participants wrote their own pledges of commitment to do community service work, agreeing to report back on their success, at next year's event.

For more information about Dr. King please visit <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

Pictured on left are (left to right) Councilmember Neil Foley, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Marvin L. Colson, Councilmember Valerie Cartright, Town Clerk Donna Lent and Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco.

Pictured on right with collected hygiene kits are (left to right) Councilmembers Michael Loguercio, Valerie Cartright, Jane Bonner and Kevin LaValle.

Pictured with members of the planning committee are (left to right): Town Clerk Donna Lent; Supervisor Ed Romaine; Dawn Lott; Town Chief of Staff Emily Pines; Veronica Treadwell; Co-Chair Marvin Colson; Frances Brisban; Marie Michel; Georgette Grier-Key; Jennifer Martin; Regina Hunt; Co-Chair and Councilmember Valerie M. Cartright; Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco; and Councilmember Neil Foley.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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