

Supervisor Romaine and Town Board Honors Black History Month During Closing Ceremony at Town Hall

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Pictured left to right are Supervisor Ed Romaine, Artice Hale, Reverend Dr. Beresford Adams, Deborah La'Sassier, Georgette Grier-Key, Marvin Colson, Councilwoman Connie Kepert and Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Dan Panico at the Town's Black History Month Closing Ceremony.

Farmingville, NY - On February 28, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Deputy Supervisor Dan Panico, Councilwoman Connie Kepert and Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh were on hand to honor Black History Month during a ceremony held at Town Hall. At the event, Supervisor Romaine recognized three Brookhaven African-American residents who have made a difference in the lives of so many people through their accomplishments and service to the community.

The honorees were:

- Artice Faye Hale - First Lady of the Cornerstone Church of God in Christ in Gordon Heights who has been recognized for her outstanding contributions and service to the local, national and worldwide community.
- Sonya Dungee - An active member of the Verizon Telecom Pioneers, a network of volunteers who effect positive change in local communities.
- Marvin Colson - director of Development Disabilities Programs and Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University.

"The social, cultural and historic impact that African Americans have had on our country is truly remarkable considering what they've had to endure and overcome," said Supervisor Romaine, "I am very proud to honor such outstanding Brookhaven residents who have achieved the American dream for themselves and are committed to helping others in the community live a better life and realize that dream as well."

"I was honored to speak at this year's Annual Black History Month Closing Ceremony and appreciative to have the ability to offer my remarks," commented Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Dan Panico. "I congratulate this year's honorees and found the presentations to be extremely thought provoking and very well done."

"One cannot truly understand American History without understanding the historical experience of black people in this nation and the bravery, fortitude, and sacrifice of the people who fought for justice and freedom in America,"

stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Walsh said, "The history of African-Americans in this country is as rich and deep rooted as any other race or nationality. It was an honor to share in this special celebration and I congratulate those who have been recognized for their personal accomplishments and their generous community service."

The ceremony included an invocation by the Faith Baptist Church Pastor, Reverend Dr. Beresford Adams, who was also a guest speaker along with Robert G. Wilson, retired Chemical Analyst at Brookhaven National Laboratory; a reading of "When Colors Fade" by poet Deborah La'Sassier; and a video presentation of "Hidden and Forbidden: Objects of Intolerance Evolving Depictions of Blacks in America" by Dr. Georgette Grier-Key. Also featured were a vocal performance of "Lift Every Voice" by Carley Germain and Elijah Tucker, eighth grade students from Longwood Junior High School; and a rendition of "God Bless America," performed on bass by Nazaria Burke, also a student at Longwood Junior High School.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258