



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

# **Senator Martins Celebrates International Culture at Elmont Memorial High School**

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Hundreds of students and community members jammed Elmont Memorial High School's gymnasium this past Friday evening to celebrate "International Night!" The evening is a celebration of community, diversity and culture. From the shores of Jamaica and Haiti to India, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Barbados, Mexico and everywhere in between, food, fun and fashion ruled the evening. Senator Jack M. Martins was invited to the celebration and was welcomed to the evening of culture by Principal John Capozzi and students led by Kyle Johnson, Candice Chatterpaul, Ben Odugbesan, Elijah Ross and organizers.

The evening began with a buffet of international foods prepared by parents and students. From traditional Indian foods to Caribbean dishes, all who attended had plenty to eat and a lot of fun. Senator Martins spoke with students, watched the fashion show and cheered on the sensational Elmont Memorial Dance Team performances. The DJ for the evening was former Elmont Memorial student Randall Clarke.

"The food was fantastic and show was terrific. The fashion show captured culture, dance and clothing in a way that had everyone on their feet. The dance team was incredible and the routines were on point. I can't wait to see Elmont perform in the next round of dancing on MSG Varsity," said Senator Martins.

During the dinner, Senator Martins talked with students about colleges and community matters impacting Elmont. Students shared with Senator Martins their hopes for Belmont and quality of life issues. Class of 2012 President Candice Chatterpaul escorted Senator Martins around the tables and introduced him to students and parents gathered to celebrate the evening. Throughout the evening, Senator Martins listened to students and asked for their input on their hopes and dreams for the community.

"The commitment to our young people at Elmont Memorial is truly inspiring. I really enjoy the give and take with the students and am so impressed by the depth of their questions and enthusiasm towards improving their school and community," said Senator Martins. "I want to thank the students for their personal invitation and hosting me tonight. It was an evening I really enjoyed. Next year, I want to be in the fashion show!"