



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin Thomas

Local Leaders Honored at Community Recognition Night

KEVIN THOMAS January 8, 2020

| ISSUE: **SENATE COMMENDATION AWARD**



Senator Kevin Thomas recognized 20 exceptional individuals for their service and dedication to their communities at the annual **Community Recognition Night**.

Honorees were presented with the **New York State Commendation Award**, a distinct honor given to individuals who have distinguished themselves through volunteerism, civic involvement, philanthropy, and other forms of service to their community.

Those honored included:

- Reverend Reginald Benjamin, Executive Director of the Able Body Believer's Alliance (ABBA) Leadership Center
- Captain Charles Roberts, Captain of The Salvation Army Hempstead Citadel Corps
- Bonita Bishop-Johnson, educator and Director of the Artistry Performing Arts Center
- Stephanie Draine and George Graydon, founders of Life After Loss – A. N. D. R. E.
- Irene A. Duszakiewicz, Director of Hempstead Public Library
- Chantel Dixon, mother, cancer survivor and advocate for women who are currently fighting breast cancer.
- Tina Schuford, community advocate, President of 100 Terrace and All The Way 100 % Inc.
- Dr. Sherin Abraham, Nurse Practitioner and CPR instructor
- Marc Aracena, teacher at Uniondale High School and Volunteer at the East Meadow Fire Department
- Theresa Catapano-Black, Commissioner of the Bethpage Water District Board
- Biju Chacko, community advocate
- Colleen Ciullo, community advocate and VP of Legislation at the Garden City PTA
- Robin Fitzpatrick, EMT and second lieutenant at the East Meadow Fire Department
- Denise Michaelis, President of Clarke Music Parents Association
- Eileen Napolitano, community activist
- Laura Proppe, Brain & Body Yoga Teacher and Educator
- Heidi Sanft, 1st Vice President of the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association
- Christine Scheppa, registered nurse and community advocate
- Syed Shuja Ahmed, community advocate

- Francis Abnet, community advocate and union leader