



Urban League of
Long Island

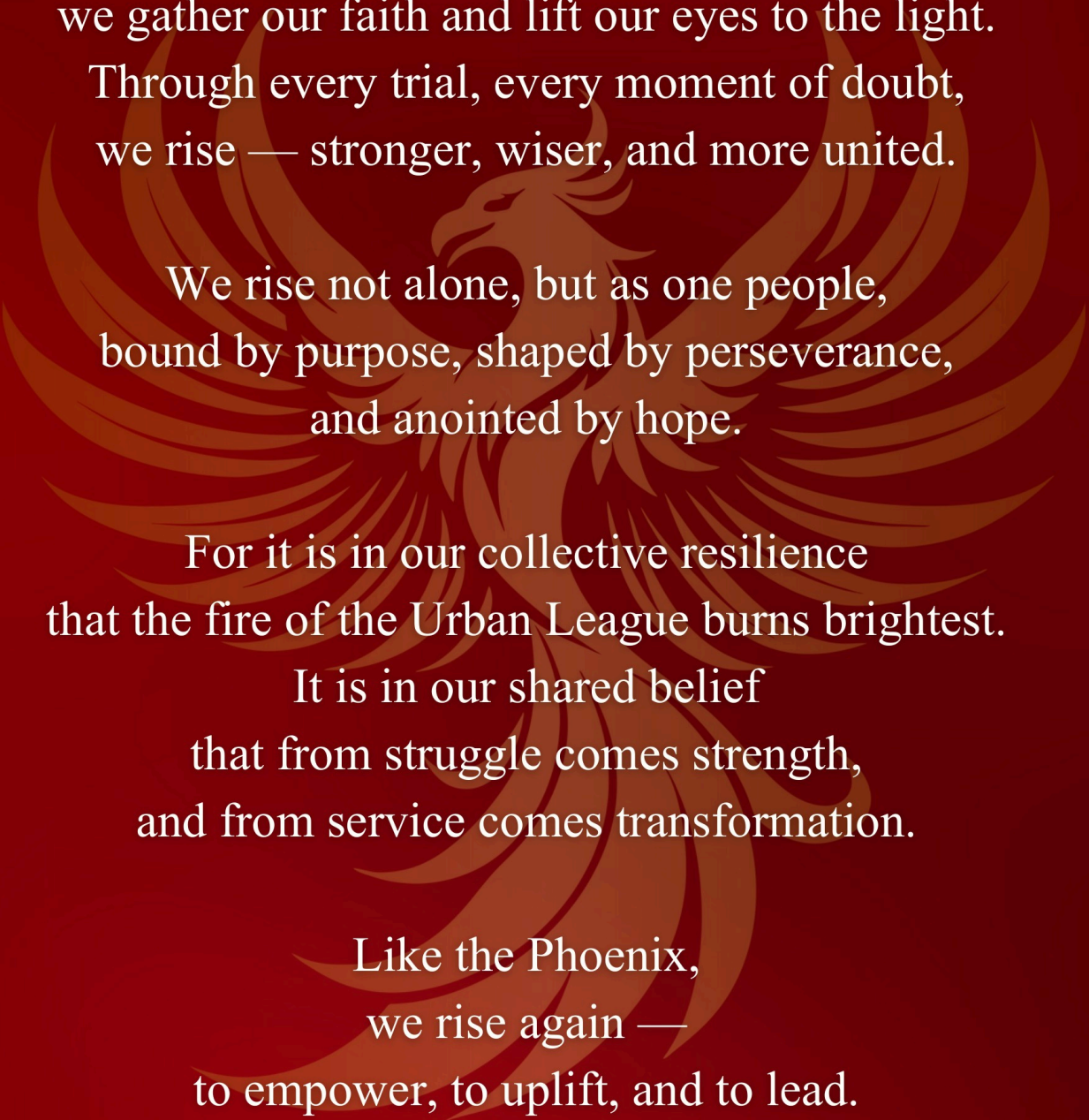
PHOENIX

Empowerment Awards

2025

November 14th, 2025 7-11pm

Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City, NY 11530



Out of the ashes of challenge,
we gather our faith and lift our eyes to the light.
Through every trial, every moment of doubt,
we rise — stronger, wiser, and more united.

We rise not alone, but as one people,
bound by purpose, shaped by perseverance,
and anointed by hope.

For it is in our collective resilience
that the fire of the Urban League burns brightest.

It is in our shared belief
that from struggle comes strength,
and from service comes transformation.

Like the Phoenix,
we rise again —
to empower, to uplift, and to lead.

— The Urban League of Long Island, Rising Together

T O G E T H E R , W E R I S E

Welcome to the Phoenix Empowerment Awards Gala



SU CHEN

Board Chair, Urban League of Long Island
President, Council of Board Chairs – National Urban League

A visionary leader with a heart for service, Su Chen has guided the Urban League of Long Island with purpose, unity, and compassion. She is dedicated to advancing equity, empowering communities, and inspiring others to rise together in strength and hope.



TERRI ARNOLD-MCKENZIE, MBA

Gala Chair & Operations Consultant, Urban League of Long Island

A strategist, advocate, and community builder, Terri has spent over a decade designing programs that drive economic empowerment and inclusion. Her leadership and commitment to excellence embody the heart of this evening's celebration, transforming vision into impact and purpose into progress.

Welcome to the Urban League of Long Island's Phoenix Empowerment Awards Gala!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and donors, thank you for believing in our mission and walking beside us on this extraordinary journey. Tonight, we celebrate faith, community, and love, the driving forces behind every great movement.

Your presence is a testament to the power of unity and shared purpose. Serving as Board Chair of the Urban League of Long Island and President of the National Urban League Council of Board Chairs has been one of my greatest honors. Leadership means meeting people where they are — guiding, uplifting, and helping them rise. The Urban League of Long Island stands with our community from the first heartbeat to the last — as a partner in empowerment, faith, and opportunity.

Through every challenge we have seen God's hand at work. As it is written, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength... they shall mount up with wings as eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

Like the Phoenix, we rise again — renewed, empowered, and filled with purpose. We rise to serve.

We rise to empower.

We rise to uplift.

To all who have supported, volunteered, given, or prayed with us — thank you. Together, we prove that when one rises, we all rise.

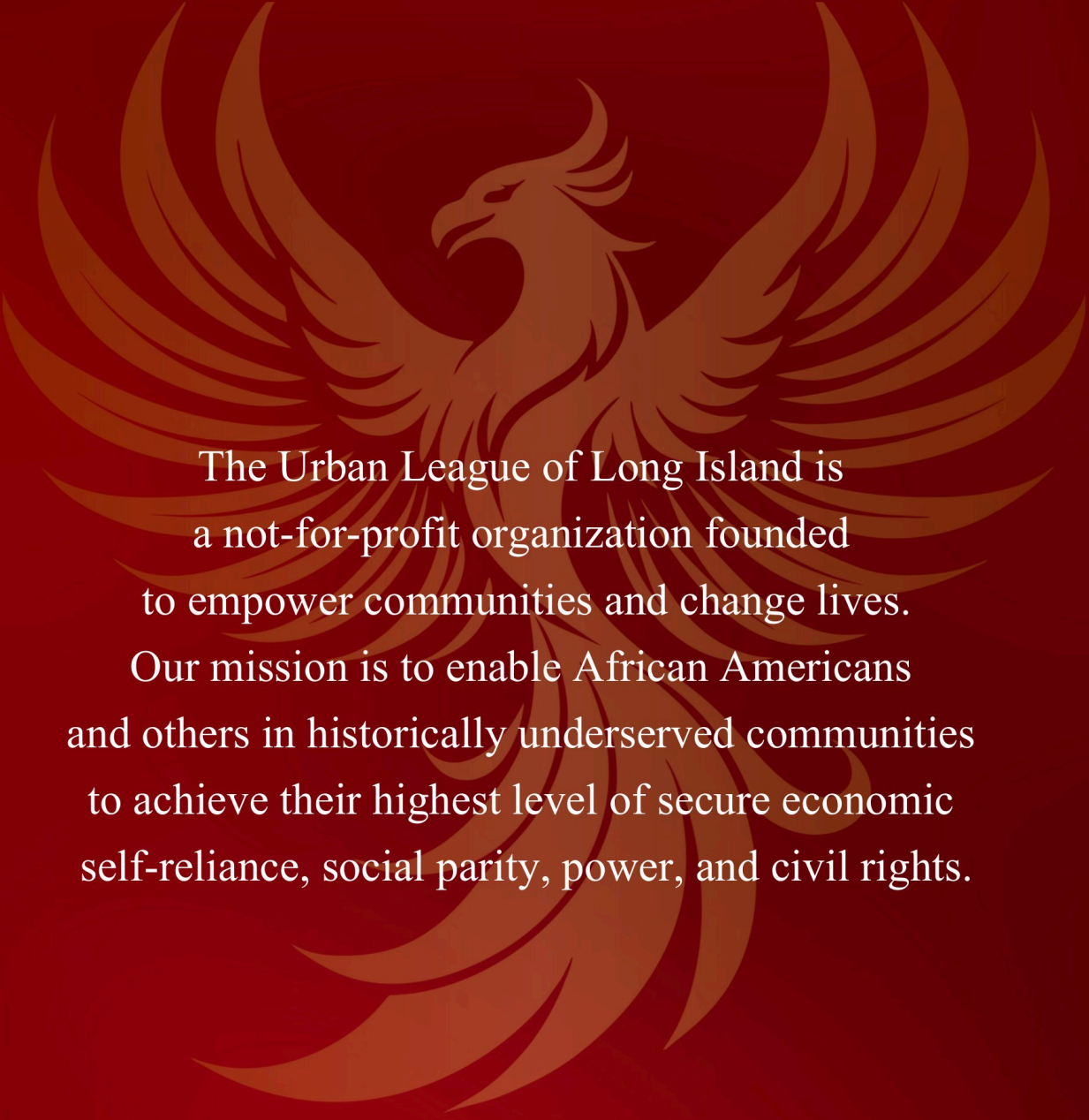
With gratitude and hope,

SU CHEN

Board Chair, Urban League of Long Island

President, Council of Board Chairs – National Urban League

OUR MISSION

A large, stylized phoenix logo in a dark red color, centered behind the text. The phoenix is depicted with its wings spread wide, facing left, and its tail feathers fanning out. The entire graphic is set against a solid dark red background.

The Urban League of Long Island is
a not-for-profit organization founded
to empower communities and change lives.
Our mission is to enable African Americans
and others in historically underserved communities
to achieve their highest level of secure economic
self-reliance, social parity, power, and civil rights.

EVENING PROGRAM

7:00 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH DR. MELANIE HILL

8:00 PM

OPENING REMARKS

GALA CHAIR TERRI ARNOLD-MCKENZIE

ANTONIO DELGADO, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK

8:05 PM

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

8:15 PM

PRAYER FOR DINNER

REV. ARLINE CARSON, ST. PAUL AME CHURCH RVC

8:25 PM

GREETING – MARC H. MORIAL

PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

8:30 PM

DINNER SERVICE & HONOREE AWARD PRESENTATION

9:30 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DR. ERROL D. TOULON JR.

9:40

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

HORACE BROWN

ALYSON WILLIAMS

10:55

CLOSING REMARKS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SU CHEN

BOARD CHAIR, URBAN LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND; PRESIDENT,
COUNCIL OF BOARD CHAIRS, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

TRAVIS JACKSON

VICE CHAIR

RAY SCHWETZ

TREASURER

ISAIAH GRIGG

SECRETARY

JOSÉ DOMINGUEZ

PARLIAMENTARIAN

LANCE WARE

BOARD MEMBER

DENNIS BULGER

BOARD MEMBER

HERCULES NIKOLOPOULOS

BOARD MEMBER

MELANIE GLENN

BOARD MEMBER

ATIVIA SANDUSKY

BOARD MEMBER

DWAYNE J. MOORE

BOARD MEMBER

MICHAEL TODISCO

BOARD MEMBER

STACIE MURRAY

BOARD MEMBER

CHERICE VANDERHALL

COUNSEL, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

URBAN LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND STAFF



JORDAN THOMAS

Director of Youth Advancement
& Partnership Innovation

A former athlete and sports business professional, Jordan leads youth advancement programs and community partnerships that use mentorship and athletics as tools for empowerment and growth.



CHERYL RHODA

Partnership & Relationship Specialist

With a diverse background spanning finance, corporate management, and entrepreneurship, Cheryl brings a unique blend of business insight and passion for community building to her work empowering minority- and women-owned businesses.



YONETTE MAYNARD, LPN

Director of Community Engagement &
Case Coordination

She leads initiatives that advance health equity, workforce development, and engagement for underserved communities across Long Island.



JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Foundations & Grants Management

With a proven track record in strategic grant development and philanthropic partnerships, Justin brings exceptional expertise in securing and managing transformative funding to advance the Urban League's mission.

VISIONARY LEADERS IN
SERVICE AND EQUITY

WELCOMING OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

LEADERS WHO HELP US RISE



Lt. Governor
Antonio Delgado

Lieutenant Governor,
State of New York

A bridge-builder and champion for progress, Lt. Governor Delgado embodies integrity, innovation, and compassion in public service. His leadership uplifts communities, amplifies unheard voices, and inspires a new era of possibility for New York State.



Marc H. Morial

President & CEO,
National Urban League

A transformative national voice for equity, economic empowerment, and opportunity for all. His leadership continues to advance the Urban League's legacy of impact across generations.

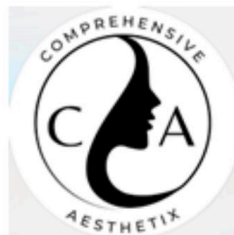
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

OUR SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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The Village Tobacconist



HONOREES

ERIC ALEXANDER

DIRECTOR, VISION LONG ISLAND

JOSÉ DOMINGUEZ

CEO, AMERICAN RED CROSS OF LONG ISLAND

ERIK COLEMAN

PRIVATE CLIENT ADVISOR, HUB INTERNATIONAL LTD.

DR. ERROL D. TOULON, JR.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

KEECHANT L SEWELL

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SECURITY & GUEST EXPERIENCE, NEW YORK METS

DR. CLAUDIA V. SCHRADER

PRESIDENT, YORK COLLEGE

DONNY BRADY

FOUNDER & CEO PROFICIENT SPORTS TRAINING

HERMAN L. LESSARD, JR.

SVP AFFILIATE SERVICES, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

URBAN LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. ERROL D. TOULON, JR.

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HONOREE



ERIC ALEXANDER

DIRECTOR OF VISION LONG ISLAND
FOUNDER OF LI MAIN STREET ALLIANCE

- LEADS REGIONAL SMART GROWTH AND DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ACROSS LONG ISLAND.
- SPEARHEADED 200+ PROJECTS AND 18,000+ TRANSIT-ORIENTED HOUSING UNITS.
- ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

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HONOREE



JOSÉ DOMÍNGUEZ
CEO, AMERICAN RED CROSS OF LONG ISLAND

- OVERSEES RED CROSS HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS.
- SUPPORTED 50+ NATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS, INCLUDING HURRICANE MARIA RECOVERY.
- CHAMPION FOR VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT, INCLUSION, AND LEADERSHIP GROWTH.

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HONOREE



ERIK COLEMAN

PRIVATE CLIENT ADVISOR, HUB INTERNATIONAL LTD.

- NINE-YEAR NFL VETERAN TURNED EMMY-WINNING SPORTS BROADCASTER.
- ADVISOR SPECIALIZING IN PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR HIGH-NET-WORTH CLIENTS.
- ADVOCATE FOR YOUTH MENTORSHIP AND HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVES.

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HONOREE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. ERROL D. TOULON, JR.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

- SUFFOLK'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COUNTYWIDE ELECTED OFFICIAL.
- CREATOR OF THE START RESOURCE CENTER, A NATIONAL REENTRY MODEL.
- LEADER IN COMMUNITY SAFETY, YOUTH OUTREACH, AND REHABILITATION.

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HONOREE



KEECHANT L SEWELL

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SECURITY & GUEST EXPERIENCE, NEW YORK METS

- FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD THE NYPD, DRIVING REFORM AND INNOVATION.
- OVERSEES SAFETY OPERATIONS FOR THE NEW YORK METS AND AFFILIATES.
- KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY, LEADERSHIP, AND ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY.

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HONOREE



DR. CLAUDIA V. SCHRADER

PRESIDENT, YORK COLLEGE

- VISIONARY EDUCATOR AND FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF KINGSBOROUGH CC.
- LEADS YORK COLLEGE WITH FOCUS ON EQUITY, ACCESS, AND OPPORTUNITY.
- CREATOR OF THE YORK OPPORTUNITY NETWORK TO EMPOWER LOCAL YOUTH.

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HONOREE



DONNY BRADY

FOUNDER & CEO PROFICIENT SPORTS TRAINING

- TWO-TIME GREY CUP CHAMPION AND FORMER BALTIMORE RAVEN.
- TRAINS ATHLETES TO ACHIEVE PEAK PERFORMANCE AND CONFIDENCE.
- MENTOR COMMITTED TO LEADERSHIP, DISCIPLINE, AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

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HONOREE



HERMAN L. LESSARD, JR.

SVP AFFILIATE SERVICES, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

- OVERSEES 90+ AFFILIATES NATIONWIDE AS THE LEAGUE'S "HUB OF THE WHEEL."
- VETERAN LEADER FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE.
- DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH UNIFIED IMPACT.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:
THE STAR - SPANGLED BANNER:
MATTHEW SAMUELS**

**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING:
CHARLIZE FORD**

MUSICAL PERFORMERS



HORACE BROWN



ALYSON WILLIAMS

TOGETHER EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.

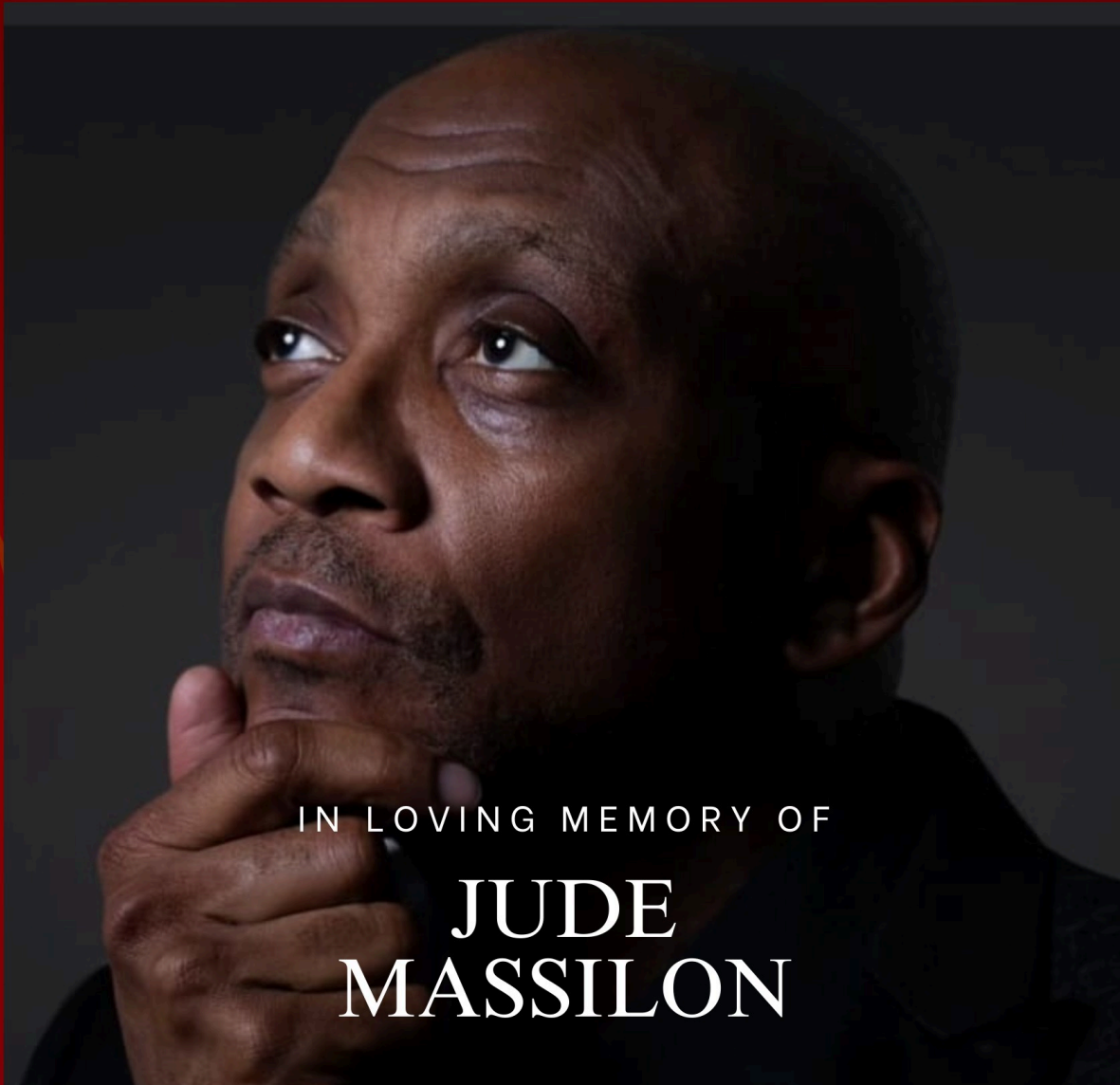
Workforce Development & Job Training
Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence
Health & Mental Health Services
Housing & Community Development
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Support
Veterans Services Programs
Youth Empowerment & Leadership
Financial Literacy & Economic Equity
Civic Engagement & Advocacy
Clean Energy

**JOIN US IN BUILDING
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.**



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

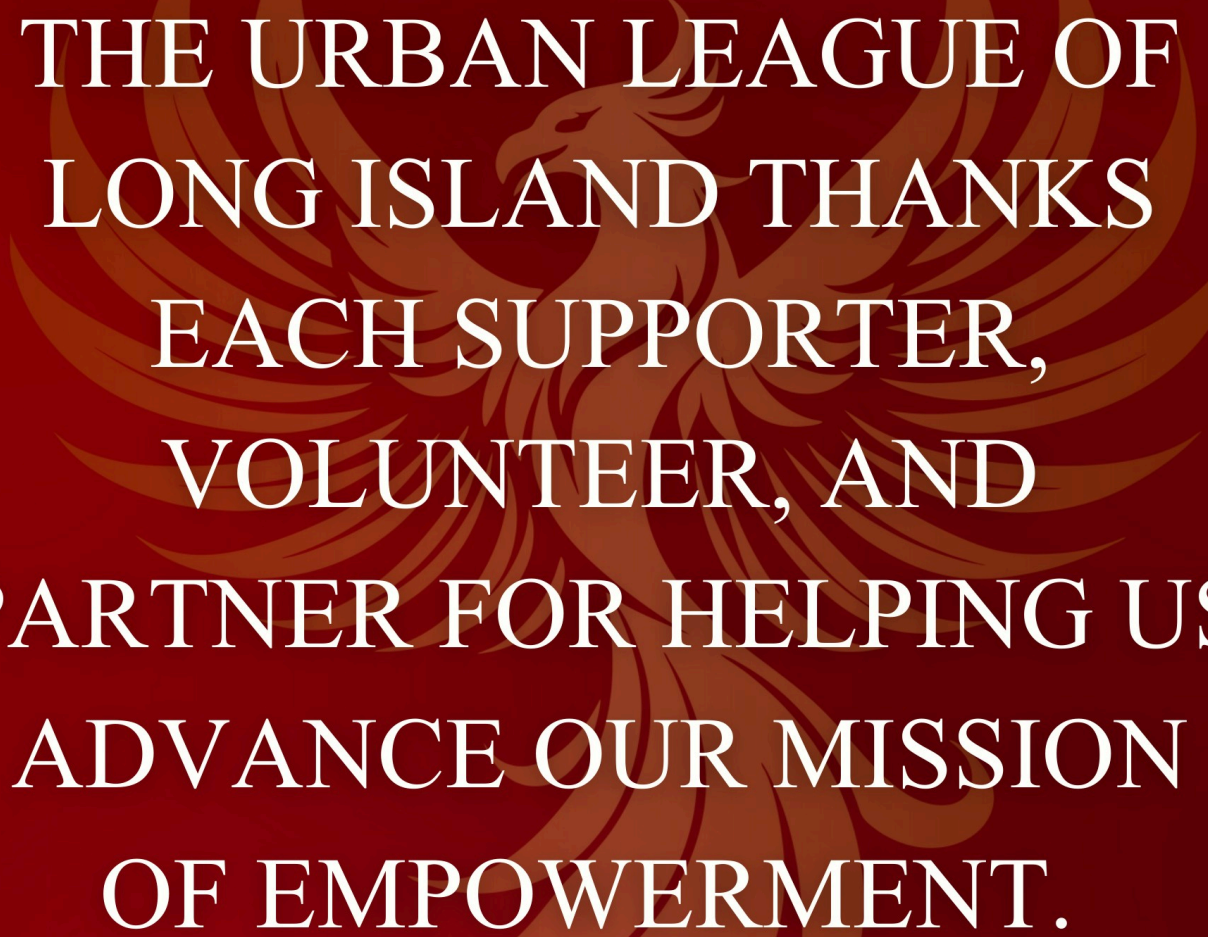
JUDE MASSILON

The Urban League of Long Island honors the life, leadership, and lasting legacy of Jude Massillon — a son, father, cousin, uncle, and friend whose light continues to inspire all who knew him.

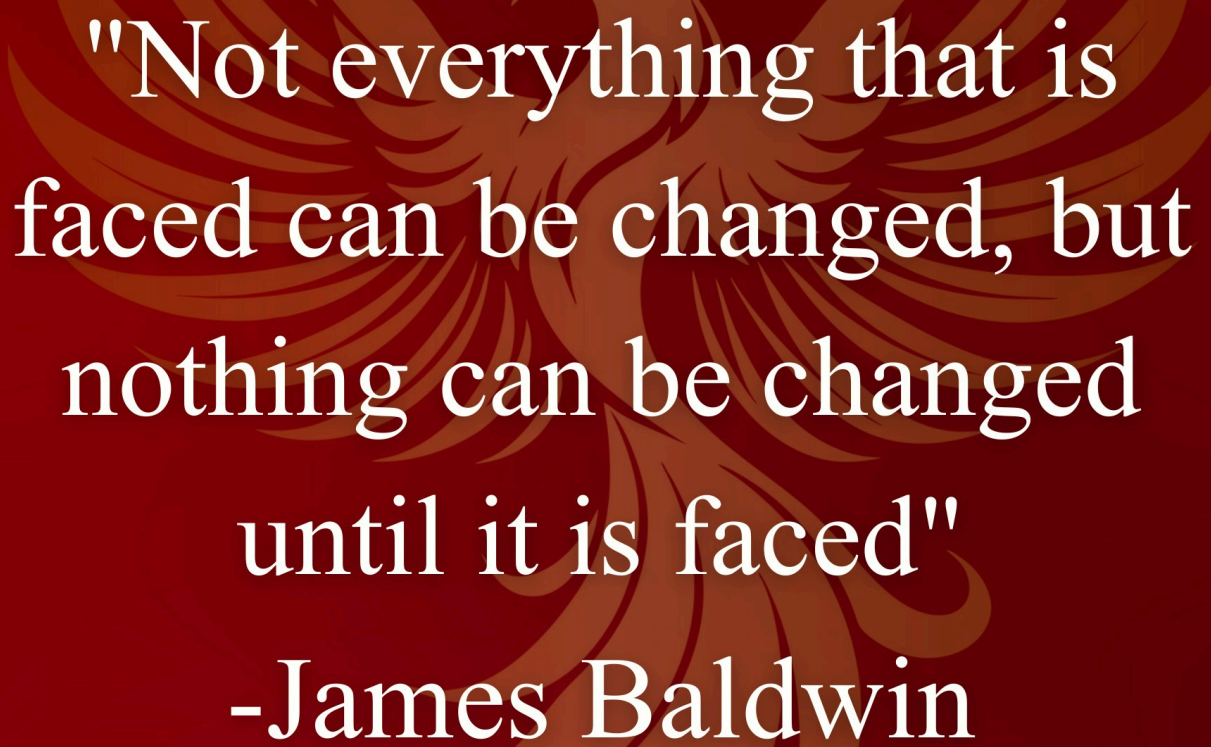
A coach, mentor, and visionary, Jude embodied the true spirit of empowerment. His unwavering dedication to excellence, community, and personal growth ignited a flame in everyone whose lives he touched.

To ensure that his light continues to shine, we proudly present the Jude Massillon Torch of Excellence Award, honoring individuals who exemplify the same courage, compassion, and commitment to service that Jude championed throughout his life.

Your light continues to guide us, Jude.



THE URBAN LEAGUE OF
LONG ISLAND THANKS
EACH SUPPORTER,
VOLUNTEER, AND
PARTNER FOR HELPING US
ADVANCE OUR MISSION
OF EMPOWERMENT.



"Not everything that is
faced can be changed, but
nothing can be changed
until it is faced"
-James Baldwin



From the Ashes, We Rise - Empowered to
Uplift, Inspired to lead.

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Long Island

