



NYCBDA

New York City Black Deaf Advocates

A PRESIDENTIAL HONOR · THE PILLARS OF FAITH

“*Together, the impossible becomes possible*”

As President of the New York City Black Deaf Advocates, it is my deepest honor to recognize the **Pillars of Faith** — the men and women whose commitment, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion have carried the **Deaf Torch** forward across the decades.

This torch is not made of wood or fire alone. It is made of **belief** — belief in our community, in our culture, in our language, and in the generations yet to come. Every year of service adds light to that flame. Every decade of dedication ensures it will never be extinguished.

Tonight, we honor those who have walked this journey with us — some for ten years, some for twenty, some for thirty, and our most extraordinary pillars, for **forty years and beyond**. You are living proof that *together, the impossible becomes possible*.

May the torch you have carried so faithfully now pass, with love and purpose, into the hands of the next generation — who will carry it higher and farther than we can yet imagine.

Charles Diggins

President, New York City Black Deaf Advocates

NYCBDA
Pillars of the Deaf Torch

★★★★ 4 POINTS OF HONOR

40⁺

YEARS OF SERVICE

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GRAND TORCH BEARER

Honorable Pillar of Legacy

You are the living foundation of NYCBDA. For forty years or more, you have carried the Deaf Torch without faltering — through every season, every struggle, every victory. Your name is written in the soul of this community. You are not just a member; you are the reason we stand. This recognition honors a lifetime of courage, sacrifice, and love for the Black Deaf community. Your torch will never go dark.

NYCBDA
Pillars of the Deaf Torch

★★★ 3 POINTS OF HONOR

30⁺
YEARS OF SERVICE

ELDER TORCH BEARER

Honorable Pillar of Wisdom

Thirty years of unwavering faithfulness. You have been a guiding light — a mentor, a shepherd, a warrior for our culture and our rights. You have seen this organization grow and change, and through it all you remained. Your wisdom has shaped the decisions we make today, and your presence has given courage to those who came after you. You are a pillar of wisdom that time itself cannot shake.

NYCBDA
Pillars of the Deaf Torch

★ ★ 2 POINTS OF HONOR

20⁺
YEARS OF SERVICE

COVENANT TORCH BEARER

Honorable Pillar of Strength

Twenty years is a covenant kept. You did not just show up — you stayed. Through transitions in leadership, through changes in our world, through the quiet years and the defining moments, you held strong. Your strength has been a wall of protection for this community. You have proven that commitment is not a moment; it is a daily choice.

NYCBDA is stronger because of you.

NYCBDA
Pillars of the Deaf Torch

★ 1 POINT OF HONOR

10⁺

YEARS OF SERVICE

RISING TORCH BEARER

Honorable Pillar of Promise

*Ten years ago, you answered the call. You stepped forward, picked up the torch, and said:
I will carry this. That decision changed you — and it changed us. You are a pillar of
promise, proof that the next generation is already here, already committed, already
faithful. You are the bridge between what NYCBDA has been and everything it is yet to
become. Keep rising. Keep shining.*