The 100 Men of Distinction ceremony was one of the many activities and speeches that spoke about the climate facing African-American youth in 2023. Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties for their contributions to the community.

The ceremony included 210 men, all of whom were set aside for their contributions to the community.

“It was an honor to be a part of this ceremony,” said FireFlies Denton President Darrien Brown. “These people are role models. We work with youth and young adults, and are great role models. We are (incredibly) proud to have such a great group building our communities.”

The Rev. Cordell E. Hunter Sr. spoke about the importance of community and the need to stand together.

“God has given you the charge to fight the good fight,” Hunter said. “He will take you higher. There is victory in Christ. Thank you God for what He has done for us. The commission is given to you. The empowerment is given to you. The charge is given to you. The commission is given to you.”

The ceremony featured spiritual presentations from all ages and generations, including singing and dance performances, along with various activities, including community outreach programs, youth and young adult mentoring programs, and an annual 100 Men of Distinction award.

“Today, we have hints, suggestions and indications of racial bias all around us,” said the Rev. Cordell E. Hunter Sr. “We need to speak out against these injustices. The men and women who put this program together, you are killing me that you are worth something. You are a warrior. You are a hero. You are a king. You are a queen. You are a leader. You are a fighter. You are a survivor.”

“Don’t let anyone take your power away. Don’t let anyone take your voice away. Don’t let anyone take your future away,” Hunter said. “We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go.”

The ceremony ended with a call to action for all attendees to continue to fight against racial injustice and to work towards a more inclusive and equitable future.