

Senate Resolution No. 2397

**BY:** Senator MAYER

**COMMENDING** Pastor Cecilio Edwards upon the occasion of his 15th Pastoral Anniversary to be celebrated on May 25, 2024

**WHEREAS,** The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Pastor Cecilio Edwards upon the occasion of his 15th Pastoral Anniversary to be celebrated on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Shiloh Baptist Church, Tuckahoe, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his Pastoral Anniversary, Elder Cecilio Edwards will also be celebrating his Birthday at this esteemed event; and

**WHEREAS,** Elder Cecilio Edwards, a humble true Man of God, was born in Panama, Central America, where he attended a Baptist Church and was thought to have the wisdom of an old man by his beloved grandmother, Teresa Mathurin; and

**WHEREAS,** At the age of 11, his parents relocated to the Bronx, New York, and Cecilio Edwards attended William Howard Taft High School; and

**WHEREAS,** Fluent in English and Spanish, Cecilio Edwards enlisted in the United States Army in 1976; he completed his high school diploma in Monterey, California, and proudly served his country for four years before being honorably discharged in 1980; and

**WHEREAS,** Elder Cecilio Edwards married the love of his life, Wanda, in December of 1980, and joined the Pressley Memorial Church of God in Christ, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS,** The Supervisor Emeritus of the 4th ENY Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Pastor Willie Lee Brown's wife, Mother Vera E. Brown, adopted him as one of her sons; under the leadership of Pastor and Mother Brown, Elder Cecilio Edwards was appointed a Deacon, Minister, and Sunday School teacher; and

**WHEREAS,** A profound teacher of the Word of God, Cecilio Edwards was ordained an Elder in 1992 by the late Bishop John P. Lee, Sr.; after the death of Pastor Willie Lee Brown in 2008, Elder Cecilio Edwards was installed as Pastor of Pressley Memorial Church of God in Christ where

he tirelessly continued the work of the ministry, providing help, showing Godly love, visiting the sick, praying and fasting, and feeding the hungry and less fortunate; and

**WHEREAS,** Elder Cecilio Edwards attended Lehman College from 1980 to 1983, and O.M. Kelly Bible Institute in the early 1990s; he was gainfully employed by New York City MTA for 25 years before retiring in May of 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** This distinguished man of God has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

**WHEREAS,** Elder Cecilio Edwards has always given enlightenment, guidance, and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Elder Cecilio Edwards upon the occasion of his 15th Pastoral Anniversary, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elder Cecilio Edwards.