

Senate Resolution No. 1430

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMENDING** Doric Lodge No. 53 Men of Distinction  
upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Spring Gala  
to be held April 18, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those venerable fraternal institutions whose enduring commitment to faith, service, leadership, and moral development has strengthened communities and uplifted generations; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Doric Lodge No. 53 Men of Distinction upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Spring Gala, to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, an event dedicated to celebrating excellence, refinement, brotherhood, and service in the proud tradition of Prince Hall Freemasonry; and

**WHEREAS,** Doric Lodge No. 53 traces its origins to July 3, 1916, when, amid uncertain times and gathering war clouds, a group of visionary men came together in search of greater light through Masonry, forming a Masonic club devoted to fellowship, moral instruction, and the pursuit of truth; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1917, this body received its charter from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, State of New York, and on October 1, 1921, Doric Lodge

No. 53 was duly warranted under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York, thereby securing its place within the historic lineage of Prince Hall Freemasonry; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the steadfast leadership of its early officers and Worshipful Masters, including Brother Ellsworth Jackson and others who labored faithfully in its formative years, Doric Lodge No. 53 established a lasting foundation rooted in integrity, discipline, charity, and reverence for God, the Great Architect of the Universe; and

**WHEREAS,** For many years, the brethren of Doric Lodge No. 53 aspired to secure a permanent home for their labors; on January 21, 1975, through collective sacrifice and visionary leadership under the administration of Worshipful Master Emurray Clopton, that aspiration was realized with the purchase of the Lodge's present home at 95 Westbury Boulevard in Hempstead, New York, a testament to unity, perseverance, and fraternal devotion; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, Doric Lodge No. 53 continues to advance its historic mission under the leadership of Worshipful Master Walter Whaley, whose guidance and stewardship reflect a deep respect for Masonic tradition and a steadfast commitment to strengthening brotherhood, service, and civic responsibility within the Lodge and the broader community; and

**WHEREAS,** For more than a century, Doric Lodge No. 53 has remained unwavering in its dedication to cultivating upright men, promoting charitable works, mentoring future leaders, and serving as a beacon of moral and civic responsibility; and

**WHEREAS,** The Men of Distinction Annual Spring Gala stands as a contemporary expression of these enduring values, providing an occasion to honor achievement, celebrate culture and refinement, strengthen fraternal bonds, and reaffirm a shared commitment to excellence and community uplift; and

**WHEREAS,** This distinguished gathering reflects the Lodge's dedication to preserving Masonic tradition while engaging the present generation in purposeful fellowship and charitable endeavor, ensuring that the light first kindled in 1916 continues to shine brightly for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Doric Lodge No. 53 Men of Distinction upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Spring Gala, to be held April 18, 2026, and to extend sincere appreciation to Worshipful Master Walter Whaley, the officers, members, and supporters of Doric Lodge No. 53 for their unwavering commitment to faith, fraternity, leadership, and service; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership of Doric Lodge No. 53, in recognition of its distinguished history, enduring legacy, and continued contributions to the moral and civic life of the community.