Senate Resolution No. 1431

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMENDING** Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of New York, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, upon the occasion of the 2026 Desert Conference

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and commend individuals whose distinguished leadership, deep commitment to service, and profound community engagement have advanced the causes of fellowship, philanthropy, and fraternal excellence across the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In full accord with this long-standing tradition, this Legislative Body is proud to commend Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of New York, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, upon the occasion of the 2026 Desert Conference, to be held Thursday, May 14 through Sunday, May 17, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, is a respected and accomplished leader of the Desert of New York; she proudly represents Medina Court No. 11, Oasis of New York, and serves with humility and purpose alongside the Daughters and Nobles of the Desert; and

**WHEREAS,** A lifelong advocate for learning, justice, and human dignity, Dr. Duff holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Stony Brook University, a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University, and a Master of Science in Administration from Metropolitan College; she has also received a Ph.D. (Honorary) in Philosophy and Humanities in recognition of her contributions to scholarship and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Duff has dedicated more than 20 years to serving others as a psychotherapist in private practice, guiding individuals on their journeys toward healing, self-discovery, and emotional well-being, and further demonstrating a lifetime commitment to compassion and care; and

**WHEREAS,** A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Dr. Duff has embraced the values of sisterhood, scholarship, and service, fostering community bonds, mentoring others, and advancing initiatives that uplift individuals and neighborhoods throughout New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** As Imperial Deputy for the Desert, Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, has brought to her role a rare blend of scholarly insight, strategic leadership, and heartfelt devotion to service, helping to ensure that the Desert Conference remains a vibrant, purpose-driven forum for fellowship, training, and fraternal advancement; and

**WHEREAS,** Through her unwavering advocacy for education, community empowerment, and charitable engagement, Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC,

exemplifies the highest ideals of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. and continues to inspire Nobles throughout the Desert of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of New York, A.E.A.O.N.M.S., upon the occasion of the 2026 Desert Conference, to be held from May 14-17, 2026; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Cassandra B. Duff, HPIC, Imperial Deputy for the Desert of New York, A.E.A.O.N.M.S.