

Senate Resolution No. 1610

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the 3rd Annual Prince Hall Day at
the New York State Capitol on March 18, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the proud tradition of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those venerable institutions whose unwavering commitment to faith, moral uprightness, charity, and civic virtue has strengthened the fabric of our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor and celebrate the 3rd Annual Prince Hall Day at the Capitol, to be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, an occasion which uplifts the enduring legacy, service, and civic advocacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, Prince Hall Freemasonry traces its distinguished origins to 1775, when Prince Hall and fourteen other men of African descent were initiated into Military Lodge No. 441 in Boston, Massachusetts, and later received a charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1784, thus establishing a sacred institution grounded in brotherhood, enlightenment, and the pursuit of liberty and justice; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, Prince Hall Masonry has stood as a pillar within the African-American community and beyond, advancing education, economic empowerment, civic leadership, and charitable relief while nurturing generations of leaders devoted to the principles of faith, hope, and charity; and

WHEREAS, Prince Hall Masons have labored tirelessly in the vineyard of humanity, supporting scholarships, youth mentorship, disaster relief, housing initiatives, voter engagement, and community health programs and, thereby, embodying the highest tenets of Freemasonry which are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Prince Hall Day at the Capitol provides a powerful platform for fellowship, legislative engagement, and public education, fostering meaningful dialogue between Masonic leadership and elected officials while illuminating the Order's ongoing contributions to civic life; and

WHEREAS, This year's convening is guided by the distinguished leadership of Most Worshipful Grand Master Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., whose visionary stewardship, scholarly insight, and steadfast devotion to the Craft have strengthened the mission, visibility, and community impact of Prince Hall Masonry throughout the Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Under Grand Master Darren Morton's leadership, the Order continues to expand its philanthropic reach, fortify its educational initiatives, and uphold its sacred charge to serve as a moral compass and beacon of light within the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, The 3rd Annual Prince Hall Day at the Capitol stands as both a celebration of legacy and a call to continued labor, honoring the sacrifices of the forebearers while inspiring present and future Masons to advance the timeless work of justice, equity, and community uplift; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and commend the organizers, officers, and members of Prince Hall Freemasonry upon the occasion of the 3rd Annual Prince Hall Day at the Capitol, recognizing their enduring legacy of leadership, service, and fraternal excellence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Most Worshipful Grand Master Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., and the Officers and Members of Prince Hall Freemasonry as an expression of this Legislative Body's profound respect and appreciation for their historic and continuing contributions to the State of New York and beyond.