

Senate Resolution No. 1424

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING John Brown Day on May 9, 2026, and recognizing the enduring legacy of American abolitionist John Brown

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate occasions of profound historical and moral significance that reflect enduring struggles for justice, equality, and human dignity, and that honor individuals whose lives advanced the cause of freedom and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate John Brown Day on Saturday, May 9, 2026, marking the anniversary of the birth of John Brown, a resolute abolitionist whose moral convictions and actions left an indelible mark on the history of the United States and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, John Brown, born on May 9, 1800, devoted his life to the abolition of slavery, believing it to be a grave moral injustice, and became a central figure in the national struggle against human bondage during the decades leading up to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, In 1849, John Brown relocated with his family to North Elba, New York, in the Adirondack region, where he purchased land and lived among a community of free Black settlers on property made available through abolitionist efforts, and where he worked diligently to support and uplift Black farmers by teaching agricultural skills and encouraging economic self-sufficiency and communal resilience; and

WHEREAS, John Brown's farm in North Elba became both a place of labor and moral purpose, symbolizing his commitment to interracial cooperation, abolitionist principles, and the advancement of freedom, and is today preserved by the State of New York as the John Brown Farm State Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark honoring his life and legacy; and

WHEREAS, While residing in New York, John Brown continued his abolitionist organizing and intellectual work, including drafting his Provisional Constitution for the People of the United States in Rochester, New York, articulating a vision of equality and governance grounded in freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS, John Brown's steadfast convictions, actions, and ultimate sacrifice—including his execution following the 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry—intensified the national reckoning over slavery and helped accelerate the moral and political forces that led to the Civil War and the eventual abolition of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The observance of John Brown Day offers an opportunity for reflection on New York's historic role in the abolitionist movement, the courage required to confront entrenched injustice, and the enduring

responsibility to pursue equity, justice, and human dignity for all;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate John Brown Day on May 9, 2026, and to honor the life, legacy, and contributions to New York State of John Brown, whose moral resolve and commitment to freedom continue to inspire generations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to relevant historical, educational, and cultural institutions within the State of New York as an expression of respect for John Brown's enduring legacy.