

Senate Resolution No. 1622

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Oriental Royal Court No. 5, Order of Cyrene upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, March 8, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor organizations of distinguished purpose whose steadfast dedication to faith, service, and fellowship strengthens the moral and civic fiber of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Oriental Royal Court No. 5, Order of Cyrene, upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, March 8, 2026, a celebration of devotion, spiritual reflection, and fraternal unity; and

WHEREAS, The Order of Cyrene, composed of the wives, widows, mothers, sisters, and daughters of the Temp Sir (Knights Templar), traces its origins to 1884 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, founded by John Elzy, Sr., John Elzy, Jr., and Isaac L.W. Holland as the Order of Cyrene, Auxiliary to the Knights Templar, with a mission to uphold faith, service, and charity; and

WHEREAS, In New York, the Helping Hand Auxiliary, formed in 1881 by the wives, widows, mothers, and daughters of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 5, became the foundation for the first Cyrene Court in the State, later recognized in 1918 by the Supreme Grand Court of America and formally established as the Most Royal Prince Hall Grand Court, Order of Cyrene of New York, under the leadership of Most Royal Grand Commandress Elizabeth Banks and Most Royal Grand Chief Engineer John W. Elezy; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, the Prince Hall Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of New York, officially adopted the Most Royal Prince Hall Grand Court Order of Cyrene as its Auxiliary, cementing a legacy of service, spiritual guidance, and fraternal fellowship that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Oriental Royal Court No. 5 has carried forward this sacred legacy, providing spiritual enrichment, charitable support, and mentorship to its members and the wider community, fostering unity, compassion, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Under the exemplary leadership of Royal Commandress Tobi King Cooper and Royal Chief Engineer Malcolm Douglas, the Court continues to exemplify the principles of faith, charity, and service for which the Order was founded, inspiring current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Prayer Breakfast serves as a cherished occasion for members and guests to come together in reflection, thanksgiving, and celebration of the Court's enduring commitment to spiritual and

community life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and commend Oriental Royal Court No. 5, Order of Cyrene, for its unwavering dedication to faith, fraternal fellowship, and community service, and for hosting its Annual Prayer Breakfast on March 8, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Royal Commandress Tobi King Cooper, Royal Chief Engineer Malcolm Douglas, and the Officers and Members of Oriental Royal Court No. 5, as a lasting testament to their leadership, devotion, and enduring contributions to the Order and the community.