Senate Resolution No. 1975

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York upon the occasion of hosting its 181st Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those institutions of high purpose and distinguished accomplishment whose enduring commitment to faith, service, leadership, and community uplift has enriched the civic and moral life of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York upon the occasion of hosting its 181st Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service on Sunday, May 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York is a historic fraternal institution comprised of men of conscience and character, bound together as Freemasons by shared moral ideals and esoteric values grounded in the timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; its history in New York State dates back to the earliest days of African-American civic life in this State, and its legacy of service, scholarship, and community empowerment continues to shape the fabric of our communities to this day; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service is a cherished and sacred tradition of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, gathering the full Craft, together with officers and members of the Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, and all appendant and concordant bodies, in a unified act of worship, reflection, and rededication to the moral foundations upon which Prince Hall Masonry was built; and

WHEREAS, Under the distinguished leadership of Most Worshipful Grand Master Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., a 33rd-degree Prince Hall Mason, Senior Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, and lifelong servant of the Prince Hall fraternal family and the broader community, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York continues to fulfill its mission with excellence, vision, and an unyielding commitment to the welfare of those it serves; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Keith I. Harris, Presiding Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, has been invited to serve as the Guest Minister for the 181st Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service, bringing to the occasion his distinguished record of pastoral leadership and abiding commitment to accountability, integrity, and ministry rooted in service to the Divine and community; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service stands as a testament to the faith tradition that has always animated Prince Hall Masonry,

affirming that the fraternity's commitment to community, service, and justice is inseparable from its commitment to the Divine; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, its officers, and its members who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York upon the occasion of hosting its 181st Annual Grand Lodge Divine Service on May 3, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Most Worshipful Grand Master Darren M. Morton, Ed.D., and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.