Senate Resolution No. 2075

BY: Senator SANDERS

COMMEMORATING the 192nd Anniversary of the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social, and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 192nd Anniversary of the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2026; and

WHEREAS, The history of Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica, New York, begins in 1834, when a small group of visionaries laid the spiritual foundation for the church; the original building was constructed in 1842, with a significant expansion occurring in 1869; and

WHEREAS, Over time, the church grew, particularly with the migration of people from the southern states, and experienced various challenges, including financial hardship and a devastating fire in 1944 that destroyed the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the church purchased new land, and in 1968, a new edifice was completed; the church faced a devastating firebombing in 1969, but rebuilt once again; by the 1970s, the church had grown significantly, reaching a membership of 1,200 and expanding its outreach to include services for senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, In the face of adversity and hardship, this community of faithful and dedicated individuals always remained committed to the church and rebuilt, ensuring the continued growth of this cherished faith-based institution for decades to come; they stand as a testament to the value of resilience and courage; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York stands today as a prominent global faith institution, renowned for its spiritual empowerment and community impact; on June 16, 2024, the Reverend Stephen A. Green was appointed as the Senior Pastor, ushering in a new era for this historic congregation; a global thought leader at the intersection of faith and social justice, Rev. Green also serves as Chair of Faith for Black Lives, a faith-based social justice organization committed to building a beloved community through radical love in action; together with his wife, First Lady Braea Tilford Green, they are dedicated to transforming the world through the power of radical love in action; and

WHEREAS, Rock The Bells, the global Hip-Hop cultural platform founded by Queens native LL COOL J, in partnership with Greater Allen

AME Cathedral of New York, announces Rock The Blessings: Juneteenth for the People, a cultural gathering taking place at Forest Hills Stadium on June 19,2026 hosted by LL COOL J; this event is ground in the four

pillars of grounded in four core pillars: Economic Freedom: black-owned businesses and opportunities to support community growth; Civic Freedom: access to leadership, resources, and pathways to action; Creative Freedom: music, art, and culture expressed at the highest level; and Spiritual Freedom: collective worship and reflection grounded in faith; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 192nd Anniversary of the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church.