

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the Joint Divine Service of St. James Lodge No. 114 and Emerald Chapter No. 81, to be held on May 17, 2026, and recognizing their enduring commitment to faith, fellowship, charity, and community service

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend organizations whose dedication to community service, spiritual fellowship, charitable engagement, and moral leadership has contributed significantly to the strength and well-being of the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the Joint Divine Service of St. James Lodge No. 114 and Emerald Chapter No. 81, to be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at the historic First AME Zion Church in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Divine Service serves as a meaningful occasion for reflection, worship, fellowship, and unity, bringing together members, families, clergy, and community leaders in a shared expression of faith, service, and civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, St. James Lodge No. 114, operating under the traditions of Prince Hall Freemasonry, has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to brotherhood, philanthropy, mentorship, and community uplift through its charitable initiatives, educational outreach, and civic engagement throughout Brooklyn and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Emerald Chapter No. 81, through the principles and service traditions of the Order of the Eastern Star, has likewise distinguished itself through acts of compassion, fellowship, charity, and support for families and communities, contributing meaningfully to the moral and social fabric of the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, Together, St. James Lodge No. 114 and Emerald Chapter No. 81 continue to exemplify the values of faith, integrity, service, and collective responsibility, fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation through their ongoing dedication to humanitarian and community-centered work; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body further recognizes the leadership and service of Worshipful Master Joshua Feliciano, Worthy Matron Tiffany S. Brooks, and Worthy Patron Winston Richards, whose commitment and guidance have helped strengthen the organizations and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, First AME Zion Church, a historic institution of faith and community leadership in Brooklyn, provides a fitting setting for this important observance, reflecting the enduring relationship between faith communities and civic engagement in the advancement of justice,

fellowship, and public service; and

WHEREAS, The observance of the Joint Divine Service offers an opportunity to celebrate the enduring importance of faith-based fellowship, charitable service, and community leadership in promoting unity, compassion, and hope among the people of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Joint Divine Service of St. James Lodge No. 114 and Emerald Chapter No. 81, to be held on May 17, 2026, and to honor both organizations for their continued dedication to faith, fellowship, charity, and community service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership of St. James Lodge No. 114 and Emerald Chapter No. 81 as an expression of the esteem and appreciation of this Legislative Body.