

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 129th Annual Grand Session, June 1-2, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose enduring commitment to sisterhood, service, and the moral principles of the Order of the Eastern Star has enriched the civic and spiritual 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 Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 129th Annual Grand Session on Monday, June 1 through Tuesday, June 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, traces its roots to April 17, 1887, when Alpha Chapter was established in the City of New York under the guidance of Past Eminent Grand Patron James Walker Hood, then serving as the presiding Bishop of the New York Conference of the AME Zion Church, and Brother Joseph Stills Curtis; Alpha Chapter was the first Eastern Star Chapter established within what is now the Prince Hall fraternal family in the State of New York, and its founding marked the beginning of a tradition of women's leadership, service, and spiritual commitment that has grown and flourished across more than a century; and

WHEREAS, On October 18, 1895, pursuant to the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York, six chapters came together to be warranted and organized as Eureka Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star for the Jurisdiction of New York, with the first Grand Session convened in June 1896, in New York City; since that first gathering, the Eureka Grand Chapter has met annually, growing from six founding chapters into a statewide body encompassing chapters across every region of New York, united by the motto "Courage, Vision, Commitment" and the unwavering belief that everyone has a legacy worth building; and

WHEREAS, The 129th Annual Grand Session will convene under the distinguished leadership of Grand Worthy Matron Marsha L. Mack and Grand Worthy Patron Grant M. Valentine, whose stewardship of the Eureka Grand Chapter reflects the highest ideals of the Order and calls for every sister and brother to invest in the work of service, self-improvement, and community with renewed purpose and dedication; and

WHEREAS, The Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star is a fraternal organization comprised of women and men affiliated with the family of Freemasonry, bound together by the five-pointed star and its teachings drawn from the lives of Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa, figures

of the biblical tradition whose stories of loyalty, constancy, faith, love, and fidelity speak across the centuries to the enduring values of the Order; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Grand Session is the highest governing convocation of the Eureka Grand Chapter, bringing together officers, members, and guests from across the State of New York for worship, business, education, and fellowship, reaffirming the bonds of sisterhood and brotherhood that have sustained this Order through every chapter of New York's history; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor the Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, its Grand Officers, and its members across every chapter of this State, whose combined years of service represent one of the most enduring and consequential traditions of civic and spiritual engagement in the history of our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 129th Annual Grand Session, and to extend congratulations to Grand Worthy Matron Marsha L. Mack, Grand Worthy Patron Grant M. Valentine, and all officers, sisters, and brothers of the Order; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grand Worthy Matron Marsha L. Mack, Grand Worthy Patron Grant M. Valentine, and the officers and members of the Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, State of New York, in recognition of their steadfast dedication to the principles of Courage, Vision, and Commitment.