Senate Resolution No. 2269

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Fellowcraft Club of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 upon the occasion of hosting its Gospel Brunch honoring Past Master Joseph Forsythe on June 20, 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 fraternal excellence, community service, and the honoring of distinguished leadership 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 Fellowcraft Club of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 upon the occasion of hosting its Gospel Brunch honoring Past Master Joseph Forsythe on Saturday, June 20, 2026, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Albert Williams; and

WHEREAS, Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York bears the name of Lewis Hayden, the freedom fighter, abolitionist, and Underground Railroad conductor who escaped slavery, dedicated his life to the liberation of others, and stands as one of the most consequential figures in the history of the African American struggle for freedom - a name whose weight and meaning challenge every member of this Lodge to live up to the legacy it carries; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated Masons of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 are men with a social conscience and a charitable perspective, bound together by the timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, whose involvement in their communities reflects the highest ideals of Prince Hall Masonry; and

WHEREAS, Past Master Joseph Forsythe has served Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 with distinction, integrity, and an abiding commitment to the welfare of his Brethren and the communities the Lodge serves; his tenure as Worshipful Master and his continued service as a Past Master reflect the finest traditions of Masonic leadership, and the Gospel Brunch held in his honor is a fitting tribute to a life of fraternal devotion; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowcraft Club, in bringing together Brothers and guests for a morning of gospel music, fellowship, and celebration, embodies the spirit of joy and gratitude that animates the best of fraternal life and the recognition that the bonds of brotherhood are worth not only the solemn obligations of the Lodge room but the warmth and laughter of shared celebration; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the Fellowcraft Club of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69, Worshipful Master Albert Williams, Past Master Joseph Forsythe, and the officers and members of

this distinguished Lodge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Fellowcraft Club of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 upon the occasion of hosting its Gospel Brunch honoring Past Master Joseph Forsythe on June 20, 2026, and to extend congratulations and deepest appreciation to all who make this celebration possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Worshipful Master Albert Williams, Past Master Joseph Forsythe, and the officers and members of Lewis Hayden Lodge No. 69 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.