Senate Resolution No. 353

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition at The Positive Community Media's 6th Annual Great American Emancipation Day Awards Celebration on February 22, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend outstanding individuals whose leadership, advocacy, and service have advanced social and economic justice and uplifted marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition at The Positive Community Media's 6th Annual Great American Emancipation Day Awards Celebration on Saturday, February 22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, A powerful orator, activist, and faith leader, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff has dedicated his life to fighting for economic empowerment, social justice, and equity for communities of color; and

WHEREAS, A sought-after public speaker and media contributor, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff's insightful analysis, sharp wit, and deep command of historical and current affairs have made him a trusted voice in public discourse, often championing the perspectives of the underserved and underrepresented; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff is a longstanding and active member of One Hundred Black Men of New York, a philanthropic and mentoring organization dedicated to educating and empowering African American youth, where he previously served as Vice President and played a key role in advancing the organization's mission; and

WHEREAS, Through his leadership in One Hundred Black Men of New York, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff was instrumental in the founding of the Eagle Academy Schools, a network of institutions designed to uplift, mentor, and educate young Black and Latino boys, equipping them with the tools to succeed academically and in life; and

WHEREAS, A fearless advocate for economic and social justice, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff has spent his career amplifying the voices of the disenfranchised, holding power to account, and ensuring that equity and opportunity remain at the forefront of public policy discussions; and

WHEREAS, His contributions extend beyond the pulpit and advocacy spaces, as he is also a respected contributor on FOX News, where he brings measured, insightful perspectives on critical issues affecting communities of color and the broader society; and

WHEREAS, Through his passionate leadership, unwavering faith, and tireless pursuit of justice, Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff has made a lasting impact, inspiring individuals and communities to rise above adversity and claim their rightful place in the fight for equality; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that this Legislative Body recognize the extraordinary contributions of Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff and commend him for his dedication to service, advocacy, and mentorship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition at The Positive Community Media's 6th Annual Great American Emancipation Day Awards Celebration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff.