

## 2023-J1303

Senate Resolution No. 1303

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc., State of New York on May 29-30, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc., State of New York, to be observed at its 126th Annual Grand Session on May 29-30, 2023, at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James has given tirelessly of his time and energies to Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc., State of New York, an adoptive rite of Freemasonry with teachings based on the Bible and whose objectives are charitable and benevolent; and

WHEREAS, Paul W. James was born the 12th of 13 children to Esther and John W. James, Sr. in the Bronx, New York; he graduated from Mount Vernon High School where he ran track and played in the school orchestra; and

WHEREAS, While earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from C.W. Post College of Long Island University, Paul W. James was initiated into Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. through the Nu Kappa undergraduate chapter, serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Chapter President and Dean of Pledges; while in college, he also participated in the African Peoples Organization, the Phi Beta Lambda Professional Business Fraternity and Toastmasters International; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Paul W. James completed a lifelong goal of becoming a Prince Hall Mason; in 1998, he was elevated to the position of Worshipful Master of the lodge; one year later, he received the Eastern Star Degrees through Deborah Chapter No. 31 in Hempstead, New York, and in 2000, he was elected the Associate Patron of the Chapter, serving alongside his wife; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, he was elected to the position of Worthy Patron for the first time and has served in that position for 10 administrations; he has also served as the District Deputy Grand Patron of the Fourth District since 2001; and

WHEREAS, Paul W. James was appointed a Deputy Grand Marshall by Most Worshipful Bernard L. Holley, Past Grand Master; he held this esteemed position until 2010, when he was elected Grand Treasurer of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Paul W. James was elevated to the 33rd and last

Degree of Masonry and served as the Financial Secretary of the Robert N. Davis Class of 2012; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, Paul W. James was elected to the position of Grand Associate Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter, Inc. Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star State of New York, where he served for three years before he was elected the Grand Worthy Patron in 2022, the position which he continues to serve today; and

WHEREAS, Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James holds membership in Prince Hall Lodge No. 38, Widow's Son Chapter No. 1, HRAM, King David Consistory No. 3 AASR, Medina Temple No. 19 AEANMS, and Deborah Chapter No. 31; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Wilhelmine, and their two children, Aaron and Zora, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefits of others which Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc., State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grand Worthy Patron Paul W. James.