

2025-J309

Senate Resolution No. 309

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the 2nd Annual Prince Hall Day at
the New York State Capitol on March 18, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens 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 commemorate the 2nd Annual Prince Hall Day at the New York State Capitol on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, and welcome Prince Hall Masons from across the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is justly important to recognize the history and tradition of Freemasonry dating back to 1775, in which the Prince Hall began its fight to become Masons and be recognized along with other African American community members as the first African American Lodge, known as African Lodge No.459; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated Masons of New York are men with a social conscience and a charitable perspective, who are also known as Freemasons; they are part of a fraternal organization that shares common moral ideals and esoteric values which are based on the doctrine of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; and

WHEREAS, The hardships, trials, and tribulations faced over their enduring history cemented the long-standing resolve, privilege, and pride that comes with rights of each Master Mason in their respected lodge; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed and inaugural occasion presents an opportunity to set aside time to recognize members of the Prince Hall lodges, past and present, who have worked to deliver present day Masons to their current position and status which they so proudly cherish; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership, guidance, and steady hand of Worshipful Master Gregory R. Smith Jr., Grand Master, the son of past Grand Master Gregory R. Smith Sr., the New York Prince Hall Masons have continued not only their amazing charitable works and deeds across the State, but have been a point of unity in the community serving as a sign of peace, hope, and love in the Black and Brown Community; and

WHEREAS, The Prince Hall Masons are, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the community and organization which they serve so dedicatedly; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to commend and honor The Prince Hall Masons of New York who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the community it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 2nd Annual Prince Hall Day at the New York State Capitol on March 18, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York.