



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin S. Parker

Kwanzaa Greeting From Senator Kevin Parker

KEVIN S. PARKER December 26, 2014

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KWANZAA GREETING FROM SENATOR KEVIN PARKER

In the spirit of the principles on which it was founded, I proudly wish a Happy Kwanzaa to the thousands around the country who have embraced and celebrate this very important holiday in the African American community. Kwanzaa, first observed as a holiday tradition in 1966, is a celebration of family, community and culture.

Founded on the seven principles called the Nguzo Saba, Kwanzaa reminds us of the importance of having unity, self-determination, work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. At this critical time in our nation's history, it is important, now more than ever, that we apply these principles – not just during the celebration period from Dec 26-Jan 1 -- but every day of our lives.

Let us celebrate this year's Kwanzaa in the spirit of its 5th principle of Nia—Purpose. Having a sense of purpose encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community. May the light, love and unity that this celebration engenders bring us all renewed hope and courage for the New Year.