

2015-J1176

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Sixth Annual Gala on March 21, 2015

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Sixth Annual Gala to be celebrated on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Grand Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, New York; the theme of this year's celebration is "We Have Only Just Begun"; and

WHEREAS, Fernande Valme was born on July 23, 1924, in Leogane, Haiti, a small village outside the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince; throughout her childhood, she was committed to the Episcopal Church in her village, and worked as a volunteer in her community traveling with her church pastor to visit the sick; and

WHEREAS, As a young woman, Fernande Valme possessed a strong passion for helping people; she managed the choir of the First Baptist Church of Port-au-Prince for 29 years, and held group prayer sessions in her own home; and

WHEREAS, Over time, these prayer sessions evolved into Fernande Valme's home becoming a full-fledged house of prayer renowned for helping those in need of spiritual healing; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Fernande Valme moved to East Flatbush, Brooklyn, and again started small prayer sessions out of her own home; these prayer sessions have since expanded to become Fernande Valme Ministries and are

now based at the Fernande Valme Community Center in Brooklyn; and
WHEREAS, The late Fernande Valme's philanthropy, strong faith, integrity, and love have helped many people over many decades and her memory continues to endure; and

WHEREAS, Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc., under the illustrious guidance of President Rode Valme, remains dedicated to continuing the vision of its founder; it has constructed a school built to educate 500 children located in Fernande Valme's hometown of Leogane; and

WHEREAS, Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc. also plans to construct a nursery, hospital, and jobs training center for the benefit of the Leogane community; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Sixth Annual Gala; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rode Valme, President, Fernande Valme Ministries, Inc.