



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin S. Parker

## Have a Happy Kwanzaa From Senator Kevin Parker

KEVIN S. PARKER December 26, 2009

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### Have a Happy Kwanzaa from Senator Kevin Parker

*A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture is celebrated this season*

**Brooklyn, NY-** State Senator Kevin Parker would like to wish you and your family a Happy Kwanzaa this season. Kwanzaa honors African culture and heritage with a week-long celebration that includes a lighting of candles.

“Kwanzaa is a celebration for African Americans to reconnect to their African culture and heritage,” said. Senator Parker said. “Commemorate this time to celebrate the good of life and the good of family, community and culture.”

As the candles burn bright, remember the history of African Americans and bless the ancestors for all their sacrifices. Continue to spread their work by showing peace towards others in your communities and giving the gift of love. Have a Happy Kwanzaa!

*“Kwanzaa is a holiday based on the African celebration of the "first fruits harvest" which comes at the end of their year, and KWANZAA lasts seven days to promote the seven basic principles honored during this holiday. The seven principles are: UMOJA (Unity); KUJICHAGULIA (Self Determination); UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility); UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics); NIA (Purpose); KUUMBA (Creativity) and IMANI (Faith). Seven candles are placed in the candleholder, representing the principles. This is usually placed on the mat with the corn, gifts and unity cup around it. At gatherings people usually bring fruit or food and share a meal and a smile. There's a lot more to this holiday than superficial gift giving. It's a time to lift each other up and give thanks for being of a unique culture with a value all its own.”*