

## 2015-J6239

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church upon the occasion of hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in recognition of its newly renovated Main Sanctuary on July 2, 2016

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 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 the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church upon the occasion of hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in recognition of its newly renovated Main Sanctuary on Saturday, July 2, 2016, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church was organized by the late Reverend Desha Moten on November 6, 1966, on Vanderbilt Avenue in Brooklyn, New York; through his work and witness in the community the membership significantly grew and a larger edifice became a necessity; and

WHEREAS, On October 6, 1968, the congregation of the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church moved into a larger place of worship; during this time, the church continued to strive for higher grounds to fulfill the spirit and vision of its beloved late Pastor including the formation of several church boards and a thriving Sunday School Department; and

WHEREAS, On April 15, 1982, the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church moved into its new and current edifice located at 1084 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church has been led by Reverend Dr. Emma J. Knox since October of 1996; she has served as a

faithful member of the church for 28 years prior to becoming its pastor;  
and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Reverend Dr. Emma J. Knox,  
the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church has seen the further blossoming  
of its Christian education including: The Sunday School Ministry; The  
Rugged Cross Bible Institute, a fully accredited Bible College; and The  
Rugged Cross Christian Academy which is a fully accredited state certi-  
fied learning center for children two to six years of age; and

WHEREAS, The Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church was recognized by  
the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
as a Historical Landmark in June of 2007; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to the Brooklyn Community, the Historic Rugged  
Cross Baptist Church opened a 50 unit low income apartment complex known  
as The Rugged Cross Apartments in October of 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church stands on the thres-  
hold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades  
while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; 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 the Historic Rugged Cross Baptist Church upon the occasion of  
hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in recognition of its newly renovated  
Main Sanctuary on July 2, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-  
smitted to the Reverend Dr. Emma J. Knox, the Historic Rugged Cross  
Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.