Citation

Whereas, the Empire State is home to many outstanding religious institutions and organizations that serve as cornerstones of our communities and enrich the spiritual lives of their members; today, all New Yorkers welcome the opportunity to congratulate St. Paul’s Chapel of the Parish of Trinity Church Wall Street on its 250th anniversary; and

Whereas, an Episcopal congregation, Trinity Church was originally granted a charter in 1697 by King William III of England; as the port of New York grew, St. Paul’s Chapel was built on the outskirts of the city, on a land-grant from Queen Anne, for the convenience of some rural parishioners who felt Trinity was too far; when the building was completed in 1794, with its steeple in place, St. Paul’s was the tallest and most imposing building in New York City; and

Whereas, patterned after the Church of St. Martin-of-the-Fields in London, Andrew Gauthier was the master craftsman in charge of the construction; typical of the Georgian Classic-Revival architectural style, St. Paul’s is known for its classical portico and simple, elegant hall; it has stood the test of time well and is now the oldest surviving public building still in use in Manhattan; St. Paul’s is a cherished New York City Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a U.S. National Historic Landmark; and

Whereas, the prayers and good works of this forward-thinking Episcopal parish reflect a devout unity of faith and truly exemplify the solid foundation of this parish and the meaningful purpose it has fostered in the lives of its multicultural and diverse congregants; St. Paul’s Trinity is known as an active and inclusive faith community which is a source of inspiration in a place where fellowship, respect, and service to others are held in the highest regard; and

Whereas, situated between Broadway, Fulton, Vesey, and Church Streets, St. Paul’s Chapel played a unique role in the tragic occurrences of September 11, 2001; just across the street from the World Trade Center site, St. Paul’s became "the little chapel that stood," as it escaped any damage whatsoever; the fence surrounding St. Paul’s property became first a message board and then a heartbreaking memorial to the thousands of lives that were lost that day; for nine grueling months, St. Paul’s opened its doors to the rescue and recovery effort, offering rest, refuge, solace and sanctuary to those working at Ground Zero, becoming known the world over as a symbol of compassion and hope; and

Whereas, now marking 250 years of worship and service with many wonderful events and activities, we congratulate the Rev. Dr. William Lupfer and the clergy and pastoral staff, the Congregational Council and the Vestry, and the leadership and membership of Trinity Church Wall Street and St. Paul’s Chapel; this devoted church family can be deservedly proud as they gather in joyful celebration of this remarkable milestone anniversary and their shared belief in, and commitment to, giving of one’s self for the betterment of all humankind;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Special Citation in honor of

THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL

in respectful acknowledgement of its glorious past, its joyful present, and the religious stewardship that will shape its future through the next centuries.

Governor
October 30, 2016