

Assembly Resolution No. 804

BY: M. of A. Fahy

COMMEMORATING the 250th Anniversary of Masters Lodge No. 5 F.&A.M., Albany, New York, to be celebrated on April 14, 2018

WHEREAS, Organizations which serve the interests of the people of this Empire State merit the commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Masters Lodge No. 5 F.&A.M. has served the interests of the people of this Empire State for 250 years; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Masters Lodge No. 5 F.&A.M., Albany, New York, to be celebrated on Saturday, April 14, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry was brought to Albany in the summer of 1758, when the Second Battalion of the First Royal Foot Guards of Great Britain's colonial forces arrived, having served in Nova Scotia since 1757; and

WHEREAS, The First Royals, granted a military warrant dated October 26, 1737, by Lord Viscount Tyrone, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, took great pride in their regimental Masonic life and conferred degrees on a number of local citizens; and

WHEREAS, It was not until 1765 that the duplicate lodge finally received its legal warrant from the Grand Lodge of England bearing the name of Union Lodge No. 1, and by then Masonry had become a definite and established institution in the life of the community; about that time, several members began to discuss the possibility of having their own lodge building; and

WHEREAS, While it appears this was not the sentiment of all members, a plot of ground on what is now the northwest corner of Lodge Street and Corning Place was purchased from the City on October 17, 1766, by Dr. Samuel Stringer; and

WHEREAS, It was on March 5, 1768 that William Gamble, Master, Dr. Samuel Stringer, Senior Warden, and Jeremiah VanRensselaer, Junior Warden, were appointed of A Lodge Named Masters Lodge Number Two to be held in the City of Albany; two months later, on May 12, 1768, with appropriate ceremony, the cornerstone was laid for the first lodge house erected and owned by a Masonic Lodge in America; and

WHEREAS, The building, when completed, was occupied by Masters Lodge and a Regular Lodge of Perfection warranted December 20, 1767; the property remained in the hands of Masters Lodge for the next 127 years when in 1895, the present temple was erected and title was presented to the Masonic Hall Association of Albany; and

WHEREAS, It was not until April 4, 1798, that agreement was reached

with Grand Lodge and a new warrant was issued to Masters Lodge, recognizing its original warrant of March 5, 1768, and retaining its Number 2; in later years, the lodges in the State of New York were renumbered by Grand Lodge and Masters Lodge received the number "5" on June 7, 1839; and

WHEREAS, Masters has counted among its members a long list of prominent citizens, including Mayors, bankers, judges, physicians, lawyers, alderman, etc., all of them inextricably entwined in the history of Albany, the State and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Few organizations reach such venerable an anniversary as 250 years, and Masters Lodge can be justly proud of its rich heritage; to this day, it seeks to maintain and augment the fine traditions and devotion to the ancient mysteries of Freemasonry which have been handed down from generation to generation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Masters Lodge No. 5 F.&A.M., Albany, New York, to be celebrated April 14, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Masters Lodge No. 5 F.&A.M., Albany.