

BY: M. of A. Fahy

COMMEMORATING the 250th Anniversary of The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection, 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, The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection 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 The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection, Albany, New York, to be celebrated on Saturday, April 14, 2018; and

WHEREAS, On June 24, 1717, at the Apple Tree Tavern in England, John Theophilus Desaguliers organized Freemasonry bringing together for the first time all four Lodges in London creating the First Masonic Grand Lodge known as the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster; and

WHEREAS, In 1729, Scottish born Andrew Michael Ramsay traveled to France, after an unsuccessful attempt in England, to influence new and "higher" forms of Masonry influenced by Hebrew and Egyptian histories; and

WHEREAS, Now referred to as Scottish Masonry, Ramsay's form of Masonry was now restricted by the Grand Lodge of France, though his ideas of higher forms of Masonry were not and it was in 1745 that the Grand Lodge of France recognized a rival group, the Royal Arch, while still suppressing Scottish Masonry; and

WHEREAS, Scottish Masonry in France remained restricted until 1758 when the Sovereign Council of Emperors of the East and West, Sublime Scottish Mother Lodge was established in order to counter a growing group of middle class Masons and gain power in the Grand Lodge of France; 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, On August 27, 1761, the Grand Lodge of France, in wanting to spread their influence around the globe, tasked to Stephen Morin to travel the world in order to establish Perfect and Sublime Masonry; 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; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1760s, Morin made his way to Kingston, Jamaica, where he met a Dutch merchant by the name of Andrew Francken who was appointed by Morin the title Deputy Inspector General, granting Francken the authority to erect Scottish Rite bodies in Northern America; and

WHEREAS, Making his way to New York, on December 20, 1767, Andrew Francken, together with the following members of Union Lodge No. 1, William Gamble, Francis Joseph Von Pfister, Thomas Swords, Thomas Lynott, and Richard Cartwright, chartered the Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection in Albany, New York, thus organizing one of the first Scottish Rite bodies in Northern America; and

WHEREAS, After a number of weeks of holding meetings in a room at an inn owned by Cartwright, the desire arose to build a new lodge house and, on January 11, 1768, a proposal was sent to Union Lodge requesting that in a joint venture to build a lodge house, Union lodge was reluctant to join in on the venture; and

WHEREAS, On February 27, 1768, Samuel Stringer purchased from Union Lodge, for the amount of Four Pounds, a plot of land purchased by them in 1766 from the city of Albany; this land would be used to build their new lodge house; and

WHEREAS, The cornerstone for the new Masonic building was laid on the corner of Lodge Street and Maiden Lane in Albany, New York, on May 12, 1768; and

WHEREAS, The building became the home to both the Lodge of Perfection and a new Masonic Lodge, Masters Lodge No. 2, which was created by members of the Lodge of Perfection on March 5, 1768; and

WHEREAS, Masonry flourished in Albany as the Lodge of Perfection has included members from lodges all over the greater Capital Region, 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 The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection 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 The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection 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 The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection, Albany, New York.