

Assembly Resolution No. 2219

BY: M. of A. Conrad

HONORING Sutherland Lodge No. 826 Free and Accepted Masons of North Tonawanda, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 125th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sutherland Lodge No. 826 Free and Accepted Masons of North Tonawanda, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 125th Anniversary on Saturday, June 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest fraternal organization in the world, dating back 3,000 years or more; Sutherland Lodge No. 826 has been successful, throughout its 125-year history, as a significant influence in the community by providing leadership, a principled way of life that is deeply rooted in a system of values, social benevolence, emphasis on individual excellence, and its service as a stabilizing force in the community; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1890s, a group of prominent North Tonawanda Masons, most of whom were members of the Tonawanda Lodge No. 247, formed a Lodge in North Tonawanda; on June 30, 1898, the Grand Lodge was petitioned for a Charter to establish the Master Builders Lodge, and dispensation was granted; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 1899, M. W. William A. Sutherland, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, granted the Charter which established Sutherland Lodge No. 826, customarily taking the last name of the Grand Master during whose term the Lodge was formed; and

WHEREAS, Seeking their own location, the Members of Sutherland Lodge No. 826 convened their meetings at several places until 1970 when the donations of several members' wills provided the funding to purchase a building and renovate it, creating the Lodge's permanent home; and

WHEREAS, Sutherland Lodge No. 826 has been successful under the leadership of numerous dedicated officers and members, attracting many community leaders and businessmen; since its inception, the Lodge has had 20 members receive Grand Lodge appointments, 10 of whom attained the title District Deputy Grand Master; many members have chosen paths in politics, becoming mayors and councilmen; and

WHEREAS, Sutherland Lodge No. 826, under the careful watch of Worshipful Master Reverend Kanjin Cederman, proudly sponsors Starlight Constellation of Junior Stars, State of New York, a not-for-profit Masonic Affiliated Youth Organization for young women, between the ages

of 10 and 21, teaching them many life skills; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Sutherland Lodge No. 826 provides scholarships for local high school students and donations to many charities within the community through annual fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, The principles of freemasonry compel these dedicated members of Sutherland Lodge No. 826 to dispense charity while maintaining integrity and honesty in their communities; belief in God, family, and community are the core values of their organization; they continue honorable and charitable work, sustaining the tradition of perpetuating the mason's belief that each man is responsible for making the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain altruistic organizations it wishes to acknowledge for their philanthropic and community-oriented contributions to our society which enhance the basic humanity among all the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend the members of Sutherland Lodge No. 826, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the community they serve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sutherland Lodge No. 826 Free and Accepted Masons of North Tonawanda, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 125th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sutherland Lodge No. 826.