Assembly Resolution No. 98

BY: M. of A. Morinello

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of Confer Plastics Inc. in North Tonawanda, New York, on January 22, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Confer Plastics Inc. in North Tonawanda, New York, on Sunday, January 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated with a myriad of events held throughout the year including a communitywide Open House on September 20, 2023; Confer Plastics will also bring back a variety of previously made products, including a bistro table and chair set that had been popular locally, a flexible funnel that Doug Confer, Bob's father and the current CEO, invented in the 1970s for putting gas and oil into vehicles, and blue sleds originally made for the Louis Marx Toy Company in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a 60-page book about the company will also be distributed for free from the Witmer Road facility, focusing on their history, the different innovations they have been a part of, and the power of the American dream; and

WHEREAS, Confer Plastics was established by Ray Confer, who worked in Norton Laboratories in Lockport, New York, after World War II as it was dabbling in plastic products, such as the first plastic cameras, handles for pots and pans, and kitchenware; he and Peter Sherman then decided to start their own company using the blow mold method, Air Mold Plastics; and

WHEREAS, Ray Confer and his partner invented the living hinge, which is the plastic hinge that goes between the two halves of a plastic toolbox or tackle box; after that company closed in the mid-1960s, Ray started another company, Airlock Plastics, followed by Confer Plastics in 1973; and

WHEREAS, From 1973-1986, Confer Plastics had rented space out of the former Roblin Steel plant in North Tonawanda before moving to its current site at 97 Witmer Road; in 2005, the Confers purchased its distribution facility along Liberty Drive in Wheatfield, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sold throughout the United States and Canada, Confer Plastics' plastic products range from kayaks, docks, sleds, birdhouses, skating rinks, pool steps, mannequins and a wide array of other products focused on outdoor leisure; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Confer Plastics started using large molding machines which are atypical for the industry; these machines can drop 100 or 150 pounds of plastic and make parts that can be as long as 15 feet; and

WHEREAS, The plastic used to make these products is made out of natural gas and comes from manufacturers in Pittsburgh, Texas, and Louisiana; in an average 24-hour period, the facilities can produce around 330 swimming pool ladders and 300 to 350 kayaks; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Confer Plastics has been proudly run by the Confer family; today, under the luminous leadership of President Bob Confer and CEO Doug Confer, this community-minded business employs 180 people working across three shifts, 41 of whom have been with the company for 20 years or more; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Confer Plastics will continue to focus on its core competencies of the pool, spa, and outdoor leisure industries, and do custom work for anyone; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Confer Plastics Inc. in North Tonawanda, New York, on January 22, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bob Confer, President, and Doug Confer, CEO, Confer Plastics Inc.