

2013-J109

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The National Eastern Jurisdiction of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star upon the occasion of hosting their Annual Convention on February 2, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those renowned fraternal organizations that devote their energy, resources and thoughtful care to improving the quality and character of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The National Eastern Jurisdiction of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons and Order of the Eastern Star upon the occasion of hosting their Annual Convention on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at the Albany Hotel in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Free and Accepted Masons are the oldest fraternal organization in the world dating back some 3,000 years; in its distinguished history it has continuously been a great influence throughout countless communities by providing leadership, a principled way of life deeply rooted in a system of values, social benevolence, emphasis on individual excellence and serving as a stabilizing force in the community; and

WHEREAS, The International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star is a worldwide fraternity that was organized in 1950, by the late Dr. William V. Banks, a very prominent Attorney and a Mason with very high ideals; and

WHEREAS, This illustrious Jurisdiction also received its charter in 1950, and Dr. Banks' dream became a reality with the birth of this new Masonic Organization; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, the Mary Magdalene Grand Chapter was established in the city of Rochester, New York, by Sister Ruby Allen; and

WHEREAS, In June 1973, Sister Effie Grant of New York City was elected Grand Matron; under her leadership, the Associate Matron's Council, the Order of the Eastern Star Executive Board and Eastern Star Day in New York, were established; and

WHEREAS, Since its establishment, the purpose of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star has been to provide moral, financial, benevolent, and charitable leadership to serve throughout the ages; and

WHEREAS, This American issued charter empowers International Masons to the same rights as those charters issued directly from the Grand Lodge of England or the Grand Orient of France; Dr. Banks and his host of friends established a National Jurisdiction; through their diligent efforts the same year, three States were incorporated: Ohio, New York and Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Today, International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star include New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star extends from coast to coast; from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, on the Bahamas Islands and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 3,500 lodges and chapters with a membership of 400,000 families represented; furthermore, its youth courts consist of over 2,000 members; and

WHEREAS, Youth Chapters were added with authority vested similar to that in the adult constitution; the purpose -- to provide an apprentice workshop for the young children and adolescents in the charitable work of the Masonic Body; to inculcate certain moral principles, as exempli-

fied by the Holy Bible and other moral sciences, which is highly regarded by the Masonic Order; and

WHEREAS, The cardinal principles of this organization are to appeal to its membership in such a manner as to: promote better understanding and coordination; to improve such fields of thought which tend to ensure sound judgment; to install in the minds of youth the necessity of intellectual progress; to regard all that tends to develop character and wholesome personality traits; and to establish only such assets or liabilities which are within the financial range of the membership; and

WHEREAS, Other institutions of Freemasonry across the nation swell with pride at the great progress International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star has achieved in the 20th and 21st centuries; and

WHEREAS, International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order

of the Eastern Star's purchase and employment of the first black owned Broadcasting Facilities of radio and television stations, along with the Universal Barber College, the International School of Cosmetology, also the Industrial College puts them in the position to render unbridled service far beyond that of any other Order at that time; and WHEREAS, These medians of service, coupled with other modern services, such as monetary benefits and those of prestige, and enjoyment, brings Freemasonry to a new level and where no one can doubt that International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star render services not duplicated by any other Organization; and WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star, provide a model for enhancing the quality of life in the community and, as such, merit the grateful praise of the community of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The National Eastern Jurisdiction of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star upon the occasion of hosting their Annual Convention on February 2, 2013; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to National Eastern Jurisdiction Grand Master, Emory D. Faucette; National Eastern Jurisdiction Grand Matron, Sister Carolyn Sistrunk; and Supreme President, James O. Dogan of The National Eastern Jurisdiction of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star.