

2015-J5830

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of organizations which comprise the noble body of this great 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 200th Anniversary of the Forest Lodge No. 166 Free and Accepted Masons (F & A.M.); and

WHEREAS, The freemasons are the world's oldest and largest fraternal organization; they are a very close-knit group of individuals who always look out for one another, discuss matters on an intellectual level and most importantly give their time and talent to many charities; and

WHEREAS, The original charter was dated on June 11, 1816, signed by The Honorable DeWitt Clinton, Esq. just one year prior to becoming Governor of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The first officers of the Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M. were installed on July 24, 1816; the officers included: Ebenezer Johnson, Samuel Sinclair, Jonathan Sprague, Eliphalet Dewey, Seth Snow, and Daniel Barnes-Tiler; and

WHEREAS, Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M. is the only organization that has been active in the community since before the Village of Fredonia was officially formed; and

WHEREAS, Lodge members who were essential in the early years of the Town of Pomfret and Village of Fredonia included: Philo Orton, first Supervisor of the Town of Pomfret; Samuel Berry, first Schoolmaster, Town Clerk, and Justice of the Peace; James Mullet, elected President of the Village of Fredonia when incorporated in 1829; Henry Fiske, first

Village Clerk; and Leverett Barker and Henry Bosworth, overseers of streets; and

WHEREAS, Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M. was also instrumental in the laying and dedication of the cornerstone of Fredonia Village Hall in 1890, as well as the cornerstone of the Fredonia State Normal School in 1901; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor milestones in the history of communities large and small in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Forest Lodge No. 166 F & A.M.