

Proclamation

Whereas, the City of Belleville, Illinois, acknowledges the 180th Anniversary of the Belleville Freemason's Lodge; and

Whereas, the lodge was officially granted a charter to operate on December 14, 1843, but it was not received and presented to the lodge until December 26, 1843; and

Whereas, since then, the lodge has operated continuously in the City of Belleville, in up to nine different locations and never further than 1500 feet from the Public Square; and

Whereas, the current home of the lodge is the Masonic Temple on East 'A' Street, which opened in 1926, and also operated a Military Service Center during World War II, providing entertainment and meals to any service member stationed at nearby Scott Field; and

Whereas, the lodge has served the community through charitable gifts, public outreach programs, awarding educational scholarships, hosting blood drives, sponsoring high school Academic Bowl teams and local youth sports teams, and promoting the Family Identification Program, which aids the police in locating missing children and aging adults; and

Whereas, the Masonic Lodge is the oldest existing fraternal/civic group in Belleville and St. Clair County. The Masonic Lodge is the oldest south of Springfield, and the 15th oldest in the state. The lodge counts among its members many of the city's leaders throughout its history, including 11 former Mayors.

NOW THEREFORE I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, do hereby recognize the 180th Anniversary of the Belleville Freemason's Lodge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed this 15th day of December, 2023.

Patty Gregory

Patty Gregory, Mayor

Dated this 15th day of December, 2023

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future

