

No. R-181. House concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship.

(H.C.R.150)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian inspired the establishment of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (the Elks), a momentous event that occurred in New York City on February 16, 1868, and

Whereas, the purpose of this fraternal organization is “[t]o promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship,” and

Whereas, Elks District Deputy P.M. Meldon of Rutland formed Bennington Lodge No. 567 (the Lodge) on July 10, 1900, and John S. Brant served as the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge until 1902, and

Whereas, originally located at the 300 block of Main Street, in 1912, the Lodge moved to the third floor of the Richie Building at 469 Main Street, and ultimately, in 1945, the Lodge purchased the historic Winslow Home on Washington Avenue, which today remains the Lodge’s headquarters, and

Whereas, the Lodge performs the central charitable prong of the Elks’ mission through involvement in activities supporting youth (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League Baseball, the Hoop Shoot basketball competition, awarding scholarships totaling \$19,000.00 in 2024, sponsoring the Americanism Essay Contest, and promoting drug awareness programs); assisting veterans (constructing a fishing dock, conducting a fishing derby, hosting a Las Vegas Night, sponsoring Christmas events, and hosting dining and entertainment activities); participating in the Elks’ State Project (operating Silver Towers Camp in Ripton for children and adults with special needs); and offering direct community support (by providing Thanksgiving meals and spearheading foster family projects), and

Whereas, the 125th anniversary of the Lodge finds the organization thriving, boasting a growing membership of over 800 enthusiastic Elks, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on 125 years of community service and good fellowship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bennington Lodge No. 567 of the Benevolent Order of Elks.