



NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
BRONX COUNTY CHAPTER

Birth Place of the Society and Celebrating our 75th Anniversary!

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Comments of Jack M. Kleinfeld, P.E. at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, Nov. 19, 2003 in the Bronx County Courthouse.

Bronx Borough President Carrion, Honored Guests, Fellow members of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Fellow Members of the Bronx County Chapter, welcome.

I am Jack Kleinfeld, P.E., and I have the honor to be the President of the Bronx County Chapter of NYSSPE.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the founding of our society and our chapter by dedicating a commemorative plaque marking the occasion. The State Society was founded in the Bronx in 1926. The following year the Bronx Chapter became the first chapter in the State Society.

The Bronx and the Bronx Chapter can be proud of their accomplishment over three-quarters of a century ago. As the Birthplace of the State Society, our actions and leadership led to the formation of the National Society of Professional Engineers, a leading body, both nationally and internationally, in the professional practice of engineering. It is the only professional society that speaks for all engineering professions and that speaks to the issues of professionalism that are of such major importance.

A primary driving force for the formation of the society was concern for public safety. The practice of "engineering" by unqualified individuals was then, as it can

be today, a threat to the public. By promoting licensure, the Society has worked, and continues to work, for the promotion of public safety and for professionalism in engineering. The Bronx is proud to have been and to continue to be a key part of that work. This concern is embodied in the Engineer's Creed, which was adopted by the Society in 1954. I will take a moment to share it with you.

"As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.

I pledge:

To give the utmost of performance;

To Participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct;

To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for divine guidance, I make this pledge."

I am pleased to share with you the commemorative plaque that has been mounted here in the Bronx County Supreme Courthouse, in the heart of what is and will be "Downtown Bronx". It reads:

"On March 7, 1926 at 470 E. Tremont Avenue in the Bronx, a small group of engineers, dedicated to the betterment of human welfare, created the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. The New York State Society was the driving force in the formation of the National Society of Professional Engineers, which promotes the competent, ethical, and professional practice of engineering to protect the public interest.

Commissioned 2002, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Bronx County Chapter, the first chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, in 1927."

The original and current logos of the Society are on the top corners.

The Chapter has seen many changes in the past few years. We are now actively striving to enhance our membership, our activities, and our impact on the Bronx and the City. We have begun outreach programs to non-member licensed engineers and to the engineering schools in the Bronx: Manhattan College and SUNY Maritime. We have moved into the Internet age with both a website for the Chapter and an online discussion list. With your help and support we will continue, we will grow, and we will be a positive force for the promotion of professionalism in engineering.

Thank you all for joining us.

It is now my pleasure to turn the floor over to our esteemed Borough President, Mr. Adolfo Carrion, Jr.