

State of New York Legislative Resolution



Senate No. 4934

BY: Senator Saland

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the Chelsea Yacht Club, one of the oldest clubs located on the Hudson

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those special groups within the Empire State that provide recreational opportunity for residents and which have become an important part of the history of our 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 125th Anniversary of the Chelsea Yacht Club, one of the oldest clubs located on the Hudson, to be celebrated on Saturday, May 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Chelsea Yacht Club, located in Chelsea, New York, in the Town of Wappingers; this is a huge milestone for a boat (sailing) club on the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, The Chelsea Yacht Club was originally organized in January of 1881 as the Carthage Ice Yacht Association by 18 men from the local area; they worked on the river or in the nearby brickyard; and

WHEREAS, The names of the Charter members include: W. Bradbury, Frank F. Collyer, Moses W. Collyer, A. Constantine, Isaac DeGroof, W. Euchand, Ivan H. Flood, P.O. Flood, Stephen M. Glass, George W. Hunt, S.S. Meadee, B.B. Merritt, Charles Merritt, William Merritt, Joseph I. Montague, John Mullahy, Peter V. Robinson, and H.S. Vermilyea; and

WHEREAS, At about this time, ice yacht clubs were also formed in Newburgh, New Hamburg, Poughkeepsie, and Hyde Park; the members of the various clubs raced for awards such as the "Challenge Pennant of America" and the "Captain William Drake Flag"; and

WHEREAS, At first, the new Carthage Ice Yacht Club met in a room in the old mill on "The Dock" as the North Point was called then; later, Capt. John Pinckney built a two-story building and fitted up the upper story as a club room which he rented to the club; after a couple of years, the club also rented the lower story as a place to store ice boats in the summer and to have entertainment in the winter; and

WHEREAS, Among the archives accumulated by club historian Norman Tardiff are photocopies of the "Constitution, By-Laws, Sailing Regulations, Etc. of the Carthage Ice Yacht Club" for 1890 and for 1903; included in the "Etc." is a copy of the certificate of incorporation of the club; the certificate was attested to on January 11, 1890; evidently it was at this point that "Association" was turned into "Club"; and

WHEREAS, The 1890 constitution states that "the officers shall be and rank as follows: Commodore, Treasurer, Vice-commodore, Measurer, and Secretary."; the measurer's job was to determine the number of square feet of sail on each ice yacht because sail area was the criterion on which a yacht was placed in a given class; and

WHEREAS, Chapter VIII of the 1898 By-Laws says, "The distinguishing Signal of the Club shall be a blue swallow-tail Burgee, with a red border, containing the letters C.I.Y.C. in white."; the burgee now is no longer swallow-tail and the "I." is gone, but it is still similar to the original; and

WHEREAS, The 1890 version lists 42 members, and the 1903 version 69 members; there were 14 ice yachts in 1890 and 19 in 1903; these yachts were divided into three classes; first class, sail area 400 square feet and over; second class, sail area under 400 square feet and over 300; third class, 300 square feet and under. The largest in 1903 was "Icicle" with sail area of 735 square feet; and

WHEREAS, The rich history of the Chelsea Yacht Club has formed it into the prominent organization it is today; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Chelsea Yacht Club, one of the oldest clubs located on the Hudson; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Chelsea Yacht Club.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON
May 2, 2006

By order of the Senate,



Steven M. Boggess, Secretary

