

**Sullivan County Legislature
Special Meeting
March 27, 2009 at 10:00AM**

The Special Meeting of the County Legislature was called to order at 10:20AM by Chairman Rouis with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated Mr. Sager absent.

The Clerk Read the following Meeting Notice:

A Special Meeting of the County Legislature has been called for **Friday, March 27, 2009 at 10:00AM** in the Legislative Chambers of the County Government Center, Monticello, N.Y. The purpose of the meeting is to commemorate the Sullivan County Bicentennial and any other business that may come before the Legislature.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-09 INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATURE CHAIRMAN JONATHAN F. ROUIS TO AFFIRM THE SULLIVAN COUNTY CHARTER, AS IT IS WRITTEN TODAY, IN HONOR OF THE COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL.

WHEREAS, Sullivan County, NY is celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2009, and

WHEREAS, this Bicentennial Celebration is important to the residents of Sullivan County because it provides historical, cultural and artistic opportunities and activities throughout the summer of 2009, as well instills a sense of pride in our communities and County as a whole, and

WHEREAS, residents depend on their local government to serve and protect their homes, families, communities and livelihoods, and the intent of the Sullivan County Charter is to provide orderly management and government of the County of Sullivan, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to not only celebrate the County's origins and history this year, but also to set the right tone and objectives for the next 200 years of Sullivan County's history,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature formally affirms the Charter of the County of Sullivan, as it is written today.

Moved by Mrs. LaBuda, seconded by Mrs. Binder, put to a vote with Mr. Sager absent, unanimously carried and **declared duly adopted on motion** March 27, 2009.

At this point, Chairman Rouis asked each legislator to go to the table and sign the Proclamation.

RESOLUTION NO. 112-09 INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATURE CHAIRMAN JONATHAN F. ROUIS TO OFFICIALLY NAME A COUNTY FLOWER FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Sullivan County, NY is celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2009, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County will host thousands of new and returning visitors this year, to celebrate the County's Bicentennial, the Bicentennial Celebrations in the Towns of Rockland and Bethel, the 100th anniversary of moviemaking in America and the 40th Anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival, and

WHEREAS, this Bicentennial Celebration is important to the residents of Sullivan County because it provides historical, cultural and artistic opportunities and activities throughout the summer of 2009, as well instills a sense of pride in our communities and County as a whole, and

WHEREAS, the Bicentennial Steering Committee has conducted a survey of Sullivan County residents, to determine the flower that best suits and embodies the spirit and bucolic beauty of Sullivan County, and

WHEREAS, the mountain laurel is a native shrub grown all over Sullivan County, and thrives in our County's natural climate, and whose flowers are as complex and beautiful as our landscape,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature formally declares the mountain laurel to be the official flower of Sullivan County.

Moved by Mr. Hiatt, seconded by Mrs. LaBuda, put to a vote with Mr. Sager absent, unanimously carried and **declared duly adopted on motion** March 27, 2009.

Chairman Rouis stated while his colleagues are signing the Proclamation, he will read the proclamation which is as follows:

2009 Sullivan County Bicentennial Celebration Proclamation

WHEREAS, according to the research and writings of John Conway, Sullivan County Historian, the County of Sullivan's original inhabitants were Lenape Indians who spent the spring and summer months here in order to fish and hunt, and

WHEREAS, The County of Sullivan was formally settled by full-time European settlers in the Town of Mamakating in 1728, and subsequently the Township of Neversink in about 1743, Cochecton and Tusten in about 1757, and

WHEREAS, the county's other towns were settled before the Revolutionary War, with the exceptions of Highland, Rockland, Liberty and Bethel, which were settled between 1789 and 1798, and Callicoon, which remained unsettled until 1814, and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan was formed exactly two hundred years ago today, after being created from the County of Ulster and was named in honor of Major General John Sullivan, a leader in the Revolutionary War, and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan's earliest commercial industry was the exportation of timber, starting with Daniel Skinner, who rafted the first timber to Philadelphia in 1764 and started an eighty year exportation boom as soft woods from our regional were exported to be used in shipbuilding operations, and

WHEREAS, the tanning industry became Sullivan County's second large-scale commercial industry with hides being brought in through the Delaware and Hudson Canal in Wurtsboro and tanned at dozens of large operations, which enjoyed their heyday the Civil War, when the demand for leather boots, belts, bridles, holsters, and saddles was at its highest, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County began its third industry boom in the mid 19th century with the rise of Sullivan County as a vacation destination, with the railroads provided new access to the natural beauty of the area, giving way to the construction of hundreds of small hotels and boardinghouses during the County's "Silver Age", and

WHEREAS, D.W. Griffith and several of the first American filmmakers converged on Sullivan County in the spring and summer of 1909 to shoot the nation's first movies, and

WHEREAS, around the turn of the 20th century, the fresh mountain air of Sullivan County was promoted as a cure for people suffering from consumption, in particular, the Loomis Sanitarium in Liberty, and a seasonal influx of New York City-based Jewish immigrants in 1899 gave way to the construction of several hundred resorts. The hotels of this "Golden Age" attracted hundreds of thousands of guests and brought national and worldwide recognition to the Sullivan County Catskills, and

WHEREAS, in 1969 in the Town ship of Bethel, Sullivan County played host to approximately 500,000 people from all over the country converged on a field in Bethel for a three-day event called the "Woodstock Music Festival, which is widely believed to have helped define the 1060's generation, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County has had times of great economic prosperity and great economic strife, but remains committed to its largest industries, agriculture and tourism, while supporting the efforts of several large corporations and not-for-profit groups operating within its borders who create a diverse network of employers, and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County remains open to the public to the possibilities for smart, sustainable development but also keeps a keen eye and protective watch over its open space and picturesque farmlands, and

WHEREAS, this year Sullivan County will celebrate its own Bicentennial, as well as the Bicentennial anniversaries of the Townships of Bethel and Rockland, the 125th marching of the Fremont Center Memorial Day Parade, the 100th Anniversary of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department, the 100th Anniversary of moviemaking in the United States, which originated on the banks of the Neversink River, the 75th Anniversary Summer of the Callicoon Center Ban, the 45th Anniversary of the founding of Sullivan County Community College, as well as the 40th Anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival and dozens of other commemorative occasions, and

WHEREAS, these celebrations are wonderful opportunities to instill a sense of community and county-wide pride and also provide opportunities to discover the wealth of historic, cultural and artistic opportunities here in our own backyard, as well as hope for the "Mountains of Opportunity" still before us.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2009 Legislature of the County of Sullivan does hereby joyfully proclaim 2009 as Sullivan County's Bicentennial Year, and declare the Bicentennial Celebration officially opened!

Dated: March 27, 2009

Jonathan F. Rouis
Chairman

Ronald Hiatt
Vice Chairman

Kathleen M. LaBuda
Majority Leader

Leni Binder
Minority Leader

David A. Sager
District One Legislator

Elwin Wood
District Three Legislator

Francis Armstrong
District Five Legislator

Jodi I Goodman
District Six Legislator

Alan J. Sorensen
District Nine Legislator

Chairman Rouis stated we are officially unveiling a new logo for the County of Sullivan:



Chairman Rouis stated our final act today is part of the county's commitment to continuing to green our county as part of the Bicentennial celebration, he would ask that each legislator start the process by signing the Bicentennial Sustainability Pledge. He would also ask that any members of the public who wish to join us can sign a pledge on the left before you leave. We will have the Pledge throughout the county at all the Bicentennial events in hopes that everyone gets an opportunity to sign it.

Chairman Rouis then asked if there were any comments from his fellow legislators.

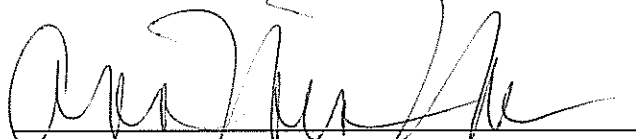
Mr. Hiatt stated he would like to echo everyone's praise and gratitude towards Alexis Eggleton. If it wasn't for her, there would be a total different arrangement here today. Thank you very much Ms. Eggleton.

Chairman Rouis stated in closing, this starts what we feel on the board. Over a year and a half ago, the idea of celebrating the county's bicentennial was talked about and we weren't exactly sure what direction it was going to take and we wanted to do something that was going to

promote the history and culture of our diverse towns and villages around the county. What it has turned into through the hard work of the Bicentennial Committee and Alexis Eggleton, is a lot of hard work and dedication. He sees some committee members in the audience and asked those members to stand. This is truly the beginning of what they think is going to be a fantastic summer and opportunity to take part in all that our county has to offer. As we go through the summer and if anyone has any questions, call up to our office and we will let you know what the events are and where we are going. He hopes to see most of everyone tonight at the Gala. With that, he would ask for a motion to adjourn. -

Lori Orestano-James, Director of Music for Tri-Valley Central School thanked everyone and indicated it was an honor to be here today. She then indicated that God Bless America was written by a Sullivan County resident and native, Mr. Irving Berlin who wrote this song as a method for a piece of music specifically for a prayer after World War I. In its history, it has been the piece of music that has been suggested to replace our National Anthem. It has not occurred, however many people do hold it in their heart. The opening part of this particular number is only to be sung in time of war. May there come a day that she never has to remember the lyrics to the opening part. Ms. Orestano-James then sang God Bless America.

There being no further comments, Mrs. LaBuda moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Goodman, put to a vote and carried. The Special Meeting was declared closed at 10:31AM subject to the call of the Chairman.



ANNMARIE MARTIN, Clerk of the Legislature