

## 2013-J6016

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge Number 79 to be observed with Barge 100, a year-long celebration commencing with a Pirate Ball on September 19, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and  
WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge Number 79 to be observed with Barge 100, a year-long celebration commencing with a Pirate Ball to benefit The Red Hook Waterfront Museum on Friday, September 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Barge 100 is to raise awareness of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge Number 79, and to ensure that future generations continue to learn from this historic vessel; and

WHEREAS, Built in 1914, the Number 79 represents the only surviving wooden example of the Hudson River Railroad Barge from the Lighterage Age (1860-1960) that remains afloat and is accessible to the general public; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Barge is a rarity based not only upon her historic significance and social impact, but also upon her pristine state of preservation; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Captain David Sharps founded the Waterfront Museum aboard the Barge to promote understanding of New York Harbor's maritime history, and its importance to the commercial, cultural and recreational life of the city and the world; and

WHEREAS, Operating this unique vessel as a Museum, which offers a

diverse variety of activities, draws visitors from far and wide to enjoy its entertainment, participate in educational and outreach programs, and help to develop the pier-side community garden; and

WHEREAS, By facilitating cultural programs along the style of actual showboats that plied the New York Harbor in the early Twentieth Century, the Museum perpetuates that era of family entertainment, and highlights the importance of the waterfront throughout history as a center for community life; and

WHEREAS, The Museum and the Barge have been docked in Red Hook, Brooklyn since 1994, and have become both a neighborhood landmark and a source of pride for the community; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge Number 79 may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the historic Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge Number 79 to be observed with Barge 100, a year-long celebration commencing with a Pirate Ball on September 19, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance.