

## 2015-J2506

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the New Paltz Regatta on May 3, 2015

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 recreational institutions and special events; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the New Paltz Regatta held on Sunday, May 3, 2015, in New Paltz, New York; and

WHEREAS, Recreational boating races are an enjoyable pastime in which many New York State residents actively participate during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, On May 15, 1955, the members of the Delta Kappa Fraternity of SUNY New Paltz held the inaugural New Paltz Regatta featuring an array of strange and unusual homemade watercrafts made from various materials; and

WHEREAS, A massive auto-parade helped carry peculiar boats of all types down Main Street to the "Old Swimming Hole", and nearly a thousand students and townspeople lined both banks of the Wallkill River to watch the excitement; and

WHEREAS, Since then, New Paltz Regatta entrants have entered the waters of the Wallkill River each year, splashing and scrambling downstream for a quarter of a mile to reach the finish line at the Rt. 299 Bridge; and

WHEREAS, To enter the Regatta, contestant's vessels must be handcrafted by the participants, and built raft-style only using no motors; although the bottoms of previous boats may be re-used, there must be a new overall theme to the watercrafts each year; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the New Paltz Regatta has given back to its community by raising funds to benefit the Family of New Paltz; and

WHEREAS, Today, the tradition of the New Paltz Regatta continues to serve as a symbol of community, eccentricity, and the welcoming of the summer months here in this beautiful Hudson Valley community; and

WHEREAS, The rich and colorful history of the New Paltz Regatta has formed it into the renowned public event it is today; the race exemplifies a spirit of civic pride, and demonstrates the values of generosity, cooperative effort and enduring fellowship in the citizens of the great State of New York; it will remain a center of community life to be enjoyed by future generations for many years to come; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the New Paltz Regatta on May 3, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New Paltz Chamber of Commerce.