

Congressman Used Position on House Appropriations Committee to Secure the Funds

Hyde Park, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and the National Park Service (NPS) today announced the allocation of \$750,000 in federal funding that the congressman secured for various activities and events surrounding the quadricentennial celebration of the historic voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain as well as for the bicentennial celebration of Robert Fulton's endeavor. The funds, which Hinchey obtained using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, complement \$492,000 the congressman secured last year for quadricentennial events.

"These federal funds secured from Washington will help enhance the quadricentennial celebration here in New York by paying for a wide array of important educational and cultural activities," Hinchey said. "The quadricentennial presents us with a wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate New York's extraordinarily rich history and the people whose innovation and drive paved the way for our state to become as central to our country as it is today. I encourage all New Yorkers and visitors from far and wide to come to New York to take part in the wide array of exciting and informative activities that are planned over the next several months."

Hinchey also convinced former NPS Director Mary Bomar to use \$150,000 of her agency's annual budget to underwrite a documentary on early Dutch settlements. That documentary was produced and is due out in September. Hinchey has now personally secured \$1.39 million from Congress for quadricentennial celebrations in New York. In 2002, New York State enacted legislation creating a state quadricentennial commemoration commission. Using the funds that Hinchey secured, the National Park Service (NPS) will coordinate educational, cultural and historical projects with the state commission while also consulting with the congressman.

The announcement of the new funding coincides with the release of a new brochure and map guide, *Discover the Hudson*, funded with the 2008 federal funds Hinchey secured. The special quadricentennial brochure, available through the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (hudsonrivervalley.com), is designed to encourage exploration of the many wonders of the Hudson River Valley.

The 2009 funding will provide ongoing support for projects launched in 2008 as well as new

projects. Included are a small grants program of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, educational resources through Teaching the Hudson Valley, development of a web based exploration of the Hudson by National Geographic, a river-long voyage of the canal barge Day Peckinpaugh, and conferences that will explore the historical Hudson Valley and plan for the next 100 years.

Specifically, the \$750,000 in funds Hinchey secured for the quadricentennial celebration as part of the 2009 federal budget will be allocated as follows:

- \$175,000, The Hudson Exploring a New World Then and Now, a web based project of National Geographic: Modeled on National Geographic's award-winning project created for the Jamestown 400th anniversary, Hudson Then and Now will provide a long-term resource and include an interactive website, with stories of the Hudson River four centuries ago and today, and classroom resources to help educators share these with their students.

- \$100,000, Day Peckinpaugh – A 2009 Voyage of Rediscovery: The historic motor ship Day Peckinpaugh will showcase the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial on the cruise from New York City to Burlington, through exhibits, programs and a classroom in the vessel's massive cargo hold.

- \$60,000, Conferences: Two conferences will be supported through the new funding: America's First River: The Hudson, a cultural and historical conference co-sponsored by the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the National Park Service to be held at Henry A. Wallace Center and Marist College, Sept 25-26, 2009; and Hudson River Valley / the Next 100 Years, which is planned for 2010, and will help New Yorkers create an agenda for the future of the Hudson River Valley, engage the public in a river-long discussion of possibilities, harness the wisdom of those who have lived lifetimes along its banks, and provide the creative energy of the young and newly arrived who will have possession of its future.

- \$50,000, Small Grants for Participation in Quadricentennial Activities: Grant funding will be provided to enable local partners to celebrate the Hudson River Valley Quadricentennial. Matching grants of \$2,500 to \$5,000 will be awarded. This is the second round of the 2008 quadricentennial grant program.

- \$45,000, Teaching the Hudson Valley for the Quadricentennial: Will fund an expansion of web resources for educational programs about the Hudson River Valley. TeachingtheHudsonValley.org is an expanding home for lessons, activities, and other resources for educators and site staff, and will be used to showcase the quadricentennial and place-based education.
- \$40,000, Quadricentennial EcoDocks: This project provides planning for the development of EcoDocks at waterfront landings as part of a larger project to promote revitalized waterfront communities in the Hudson-Champlain corridors. Design and engineering of the EcoDocks will aim to minimize shading and any impact on marine life; provide flexibility to accommodate various waterfront activities; and minimize any physical impact on the shore and environment; as well as provide portability and durability.
- \$30,000, Lenape, Ellis Island's First Inhabitants, an Exhibition at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum; July 2009 - January 2010: "Lenape" will tell the story of the Lenape Indians from prehistory through the 21st century with an exploration of their languages, cultures, and religious traditions.
- \$250,000, Lake Champlain Celebrations: This allocation of funding will be spent specifically on the Champlain celebration and managed by the New York/Vermont state commissions.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain quadricentennial celebrates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's first exploratory sail in 1609 up the river that now bears his name, the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's first exploration in 1609 of what is now called Lake Champlain, as well as the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's Hudson River voyage in 1807 in which he introduced steam navigation on a commercial basis.

In 1909, Americans celebrated the 300th anniversaries of these events with maritime celebrations and art exhibitions. The Dutch built the first replica of Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, and sent it up the Hudson River for the observance. Congress recognized the 350th anniversary by establishing a similar commission to coordinate federal participation in the 1959 celebrations.

Hinchey is the author of the legislation that created the Hudson River Valley National Heritage

Area, the first federal action formally recognizing the fundamentally significant role the people of the Hudson Valley played in the early development of America and its institutions. The congressman has worked to secure funding for the heritage area.

The first European exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, and the introduction of steam navigation to maritime commerce are celebrated both in the United States and abroad. Earlier this year, Hinchey traveled to Amsterdam to join Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands for a kickoff of the quadricentennial celebration of Henry Hudson's exploration and discovery of the river in New York that now bears his name.