

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the National Park Service (NPS) has expressed its full readiness and cooperation for the upcoming Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration that will be celebrated in 2009. The NPS will enhance the quadricentennial celebration of the historic voyages of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain, as well as the bicentennial celebration of Robert Fulton's endeavor.

"I give my sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Park Service for their continued dedication and support to the heritage of the Hudson Valley and other historical areas across the country," Hinchey said. "Through their programmatic and technical support they will ensure that the federal government helps create a great celebration that benefits local communities, New York State, and our international partners involved with these events. I am proud to have had the opportunity to secure the funds that will enable the NPS to coordinate these activities."

The National Park Service will assist efforts to celebrate the upcoming 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's first exploratory sail up what is now called the Hudson River in 1609, 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.

"We recognize the importance of the 400th anniversary to the Nation and to a larger international audience," said NPS Regional Director, Dennis Reidenbach, in a letter to the congressman. "The NPS is moving forward with its own anniversary programs and activities at parks in the Hudson and Champlain regions. We are also prepared to assist with anniversary celebrations and advancing legacy type projects that will have lasting value to the Hudson and Champlain regions."

In 2002, New York State enacted legislation creating a state quadricentennial commemoration commission. Using the funds that Hinchey secured in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008, the NPS will coordinate educational, cultural and historical projects with the state commission. It's also expected that the state commission and the National Park Service will work together to support and facilitate marketing efforts for other commemorative related activities.

Hinchey authored 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. Hinchey authored legislation, the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2007, passed the full House in September to create a federal Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commemoration Commission.