

□ Town & Village Will Honor Hometown Congressman for 38 Years of Public Service

Saugerties, NY -- In recognition of his 38 years of public service in the New York State Assembly and U.S. House of Representatives, the Town and Village of Saugerties will celebrate Congressman Maurice Hinchey at a free community picnic this weekend and declare July 29 as 'Maurice Hinchey Day'. Hinchey, who grew up in Saugerties and still lives there, will also receive the 'Pride of Ulster County' award at the picnic, which will take place at Cantine Field.

"I am humbled by the outpouring of well wishes I have been receiving from across the 22nd Congressional District. Having my hometown open its heart to me -- to name the day in my honor -- is so much more than I could have ever expected. I am deeply appreciative," Hinchey said. "It is hard to express how terrific it is to be home in Saugerties and surrounded by so many friends, people who have supported me and helped me to accomplish so much for this community and communities across the district. While it's true that I've worked hard over the last 38 years to do what was right for the people I represent, and that I am proud of what has been accomplished across this sprawling district, the truth of the matter is that none of it would have been possible without all of the people I had the honor of representing. It was your support and your insight about what was important for this community that allowed me to achieve so many important things."

Throughout his 38 years in public office representing Saugerties, Hinchey has fought for state and federal aid and support to advance priorities in the town and village. In 1986, he sponsored Assembly legislation that resulted in the transfer of ownership of the Saugerties Lighthouse from the state to the Lighthouse Conservancy for \$1. That property is now one of Saugerties' most treasured recreational and historical resources. The congressman also worked to protect the Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, which is an outstanding place to visit, explore, bird watch, or kayak along the Esopus Creek. Hinchey helped negotiate a permanent protecting of the Preserve with local officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Hinchey has also worked to secure federal funds for the redevelopment of Kings Highway in the Town of Saugerties and for historic lighting and crosswalk upgrades in the Village of Saugerties.

Hinchey was born in New York City and lived there with his family until he was nine years old when his parents decided to move to his grandparents' farm in Saugerties. He attended St. Mary of the Snow and Saugerties High School. Years later, Hinchey became Chairman of the Saugerties Democratic Committee. He eventually ran for the State Assembly and was elected in 1974. He served for 18 years in Albany, including 14 years as the Chairman of the

Environmental Conservation Committee. Hinchey was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 where he has served ever since.

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