

CROTON · ON · HUDSON

River Day, June 7th, 2009

WHEREAS, when the last great warming period arrived here 333 generations ago, the glacial ice receded and the oak-chestnut-hickory forests that shade these hillsides slipped in from the south and west; and

WHEREAS, the peoples of Lenape, Mahican, and Wappinger tribes arrived here 133 generations ago to live under these trees and on these sandy shores and trade up and down this river that flows both ways; and

WHEREAS, a wooden sailing vessel a mere 85 feet in length arrived here 13 generations ago, having been sent from 3,000 miles away by the Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie, which we know as the Dutch East India Company, to scout for shorter routes between Europe and Asia; and

WHEREAS, that vessel bore the name “Halve Maen” and its captain, Henry Hudson, was making his third voyage to these shores; and

WHEREAS, in September of that year, 1609, just 13 generations ago, the ship’s first mate, Robert Juet, recorded these words as the Halve Maen passed the place we stand today, “The Riuer is a mile broad: there is very high Land on both sides” and “The Riuer is full of fish” and “There wee found very louing people”; and

WHEREAS, we here today are mere stewards for the river and hills that will outlive us; and

WHEREAS, we, the people of this village today, want to act as loving as those who hosted visitors 13 generations ago;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, we resolve to keep this river “full of fish” and its residents as “loving,” for those who will come a mere 13 generations from today; and

FURTHER, that we welcome today the new Halve Maen and all her crew to these shores; and

FINALLY, that I hereby pronounce—with all the powers vested in me as the current mayor of the village currently called Croton-on-Hudson—this day, the Seventh of June in the year of our Lord 2009 to be “Feestdag ten ere van de Halve Maen” —“Festival Day in honor of the Half Moon”; and

IN CLOSING, that all those present, join me in proclaiming this day be known as “Half Moon Day” in celebration of the past as prologue to the future.

HUDSON · FULTON CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL



Village of **Croton-on-Hudson** New York

Signed

(Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor)