

Borough of Chatham

BOROUGH HALL

54 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE - CHATHAM - NEW JERSEY 07928

RESOLUTION #22-205

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING FLAG DAY IN CHATHAM BOROUGH, JUNE 14, 2022

WHEREAS, two hundred and forty-six years ago, a small band of patriots declared independence from Great Britain, proclaiming with a single voice that the American people are free to determine their own destiny and pursue the solemn and sacred task of self-governance; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress paused from its crafting of the Articles of Confederation to approve a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white ... and the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation"; and

WHEREAS, A string of thirteen colonies, drawing inspiration from these "Stars and Stripes", later expanded to become a constitutional democracy composed of a united fifty states; and

WHEREAS, For the duration of this nation's history, the flag of the United States has steadfastly served as an emblem of our great experiment in democracy, and an abiding source of strength and inspiration to all who cherish the ideals for which it stands; and

WHEREAS, "Old Glory" persists as a powerful representation of freedom and opportunity, waving high above capitol buildings and courthouses, military bases, and embassies across the globe, and even on the distant surface of the moon, summoning each of us to honor our obligations to the republic for which it stands, and to carry forward the unwavering optimism that defines us as a nation; and

WHEREAS, America endures because of the courage of its countless servicemen and women who serve under this standard, as well as that of our veterans who are forever draped in the red, white and blue when they are laid to rest, thus proclaiming before the entire world that Americans bravely and with conviction rise and fall together, as one nation and one people; and

WHEREAS, the "Star Spangled Banner" invokes pride in our citizens and hope in the vast numbers who come to our shores in search of a brighter tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate this magnificent banner, Bernard Cigrand, a small-town Wisconsin teacher, originated the idea in 1885 of an annual "Flag Day" to be celebrated across the country, and continued to promote this concept throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 the United States Congress, heeding Mr. Cigrand's call, by joint resolution designated June 14 of each year as Flag Day, and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the American flag on all Federal Government buildings; and

WHEREAS, today, Flag Day is increasingly observed in municipalities throughout this country by such means as a ceremonial raising of the flag, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem, shared accounts of what the flag "means" to each other, public recognition of active and retired servicemen and women, playing of Taps, and the like; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Chatham wish to similarly commemorate this cherished symbol of so much that our residents hold dear about this nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Chatham that June 14, 2022 shall be declared "Flag Day" and marked by a ceremony to be held in front of Borough Hall, at the hour of 10:00 am, for the benefit of our residents and all others who wish to commemorate, and indeed celebrate, the ideals, aspirations, and values for which the Stars and Stripes have come to stand.

Adopted: June 27, 2022

Stephen W. Williams Acting Borough Clerk Thaddeus J. Kobylarz

Mayor