

Proclamation on the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower's Arrival in 1620

Issued on: September 24, 2020

In ye name of God, Amen. We honor our Mayflower ancestors that traveled to this land, inspired by the ideas of liberty and freedom of religion. For the Mayflower's 400th anniversary, we commemorate the rich history shared between the United States, New Jersey, Cape May County, and the descendants of the Mayflower ship that arrived in Massachusetts in 1620.

The separatist thinkers of northern Europe risked their lives to come to America in pursuit of the fundamental truth that people have rights to freedom of religion that cannot be denied. One hundred fifty five years later, the same quest for liberty catalyzed their descendants to engage in the American Revolution.

Hannah Gorham, granddaughter of Mayflower passengers John Howland, and John & Joan Tilley, moved to Cape May with husband Joseph Whilldin before 1683 to participate in the flourishing whaling business there. They had many descendants who remained and thrived in the Cape May region such that a significant percent of today's Cape May County population are eligible for membership in the Mayflower Society.

The Jersey Cape Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New Jersey was founded in 1973, and has proven itself as a stalwart group of enthusiasts. Regular meetings and significant contributions have been reliably made locally, and at the state and national levels.

Freedom endures in America, and in the year of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival, we remain hopeful and resolute for our future in the spirit of democracy put forth by our ancestors in their Pilgrims' Compact of governance with a "civil body politic."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHYLLIS MOONY, Governor of the Jersey Cape Colony, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Jersey Cape Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2020, as JCC Mayflower 400 Day to be a Jersey Cape Colony day of celebration of Mayflower history and lineage perpetuating 400 years. I call upon fellow members of the Mayflower Society and the Cape May, NJ region to observe this day with joyously proud thoughts and recognition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty.

PHYLLIS MOONY