

2009 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 305

Designating September 14, in 2009 and in each succeeding year, as Steamboat Era Day in Virginia.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 4, 2009
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 2009

WHEREAS, on September 14, 1937, passengers aboard the *Anne Arundel* stepped ashore in Baltimore after the famous steamship's historic final run upon the Rappahannock River on its last roundtrip from Baltimore to Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, the Steamboat Era Museum and the residents of the Town of Irvington and the Northern Neck embraced a new Tidewater tradition, the celebration on September 14th of Steamboat Era Day; and

WHEREAS, from 1813 to 1937, the Chesapeake steamboats carried not only passengers, but all kinds of goods from the international ports of Baltimore and Norfolk to towns all along the rivers, spreading commerce and trade throughout the Northern Neck and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the docking of the steamboats brought out throngs of townspeople, and local farmers and merchants traded their livestock, produce, and goods for new products and luxury items from the big cities for their customers; and

WHEREAS, the Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington is dedicated to collecting and preserving the artifacts and glorious history and significance of the Steamboat Era on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for the enjoyment and education of Virginians, especially young people, and visitors from across the country and abroad; and

WHEREAS, among its many goals as an historical site and depository, the Steamboat Era Museum provides tours, special programs, oral history and permanent exhibits, as well as educational, outreach, and genealogical research projects; and

WHEREAS, in David C. Holly's book, *Tidewater by Steamboat: A Saga of the Chesapeake*, the author describes the *Anne Arundel's* nostalgic final journey on September 14, 1937—past the byways and abandoned wharves and warehouses of her colorful youth— marking the close of an era and an end to the regularly scheduled steamship passenger service that helped forge families and communities along her route; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate September 14, in 2009 and in each succeeding year, as Steamboat Era Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

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