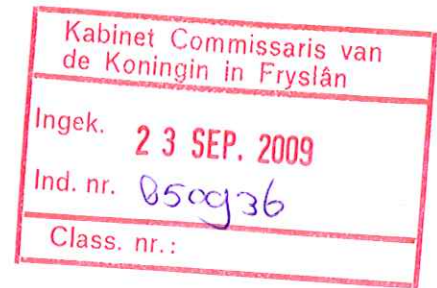




STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224



DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

September 12, 2009

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings and words of welcome to all who have gathered on Governor's Island for the New Island Festival's glorious celebration of *Friesland Day*.

The Empire State is truly fortunate to be home to many Dutch Americans who are either Frisian immigrants or descendants of the sons and daughters of the Province of Fryslân, in the northern region of the Netherlands, who share a passionate pride in their ancestry and actively promote their love of Dutch culture, and all things Frisian. In this historic year, as we celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's remarkable voyage to the New World, and his discovery of the magnificent river which now bears his name, we also commemorate the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation which exist between the Netherlands and America, noting that the Frisian States were the first to recognize the independence of the United States, in 1782.

Today fortuitously marks the grand opening of the Fryslân House, which will be a convenient meeting place for local Frisian companies and businesses to confer and network. Among many other exciting activities which pay tribute to this distinctive province is the presentation of the book, *Famous Frisians in America*, a work that captures the relationships of Frisians and Americans, highlighting the lives of many talented notables with Frisian roots.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend everyone affiliated with this spirited and timely effort to preserve a living Frisian legacy, and congratulate the dazzling lineup of gifted poets and artists, and creative musical performers who will entertain a very grateful audience, throughout this special day.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for an enjoyable and successful festival.

Sincerely,

David A. Paterson