Whereas, New York City boasts the distinction of being the first capital of the United States, and there is no better place to celebrate our nation’s rich heritage and history. Established in 1883, Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc. (SRNY) is a nonprofit corporation made up of descendants of those who fought for American independence. Its members preserve and promote the memory of the accomplishments of their ancestors, the times in which they lived, and the ideals they bravely served to uphold. Every year, this wonderful organization commemorates historically significant events, including the anniversaries of George Washington’s birthday, the battles of Lexington and Concord, and the evacuation of New York by the British army. The group also places and maintains historical markers at sites from the Revolutionary Era throughout the five boroughs. Its most notable philanthropic and educational contribution to New York’s landscape is the preservation of 54 Pearl Street, one of our city’s oldest standing structures, and home to Fraunces Tavern, one of the most important taverns during the era of the American Revolutionary War.

Whereas, Today, I am pleased to join SRNY as it hosts its annual Flag Day celebration in Lower Manhattan. As part of the First Flag Act, passed on June 14th, 1777, by the Second Continental Congress, it was stated, “that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternating red and white; that the ‘Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.’ President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day in 1916, inspired by local celebrations that paid tribute to Old Glory, including the efforts and leadership of a New York City school kindergarten teacher named George Balch who taught his students about the history of the American flag. While not a federal holiday, this special day is observed across the nation, from small towns to big cities, often with parades.

Whereas, SRNY’s Flag Day parade will kick off at noon at City Hall Park and proceed down Broadway before culminating at the grandstand in front of Fraunces Tavern. The ceremony will include student essay contest winners reading their compositions on “What the American Flag Means to Me.” I applaud the organizers and participants of today’s event for their efforts to honor our nation’s Stars and Stripes and everything it represents: freedom, equality, and justice for all. This annual commemoration is also a reminder for us to reflect on and remember the many selfless men and women who lived up to our country’s founding principles and made great strides in the march toward our independence.

Now therefore, I, Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 14th, 2024, in the City of New York as:

Flag Day

[Signature]

Eric Adams
Mayor