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Mr. Frelinghuysen of New Jersey
HONORING 35 YEARS OF HISTORY

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Canal Society of New Jersey, in Sussex County, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent.

On June 12, 2004, in the Highlands of New Jersey, the Canal Society of New Jersey, in the Village of Waterloo, will celebrate its 35th anniversary during the 9th Annual Waterloo Canal Day.

Waterloo will also celebrate its 40th anniversary as an open-to-the-public historic canal and iron town. The Canal Society was founded at Waterloo on June 7, 1969, opened its museum in 1976, and is dedicated to the preservation of the historic towpath canals of New Jersey.

When construction began in 1825, the Morris Canal struck out boldly across the Highlands with 23 inclined planes and 34 lift locks, overcoming more elevation change than any towpath canal in the world. Its technology was copied in Nova Scotia, Japan, and Poland, where five inclined planes are still in use, transporting both commercial and tourist traffic.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal is celebrating its 30th anniversary as a state park and as a nationally registered historic site, exemplifying the industry of a fledgling country. Our third most visited state park, this 66-mile-long watered greenway is a natural and recreational haven in the heart of the most densely populated state in the nation.

1834 marked the opening of the Delaware and Raritan Canal (D&R), a major component of the Intracoastal Waterway, connecting the Chesapeake Bay with the ports of New York and New England. This relatively low canal cut across the waist of New Jersey and handled more cargo in one year than the more famous Erie Canal. The D&R Canal was bigger and deeper than the Morris and had unlimited height clearance

Connecting New Brunswick with Bordentown, via Princeton and Trenton, the D&R is one of the few remaining watered historic towpath canals in the nation. It has the potential of being reopened to boaters as an exceptional recreational and historic amenity, reflecting in the United States the great tourist industry exemplified by England. With 2000 miles of recreational and historic waterways, Great Britain has created hundreds of jobs and reaps millions of tourist dollars.

Dedicated to the preservation of our canal heritage, the 1000 member Canal Society of New Jersey and Waterloo Foundation for the Arts have worked hand in hand over the years to interpret and bring to life our heritage and canal history. Waterloo is a Canal Town, and, on June 12th, the visitors will experience the clip-clop of hooves and the bray of a mule once again walking along the towpath, with canal music wafting past the blacksmith shop. Traditional food will be featured at the Towpath Tavern and guided tours will showcase the remains of the national and state registered Morris Canal.

The Canal Society's partnering with Waterloo and the State Division of Parks and Forestry has begun creating the Morris Canal Greenway, a recreational and historic oasis that stretches 102 miles, from Jersey City to Phillipsburg. The Greenway follows the waters that brought prosperity to northern New Jersey by connecting the anthracite coal ("black diamonds") from the hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the rich iron ore of Morris County with the New York City market. This famous transportation corridor spurred the fledging industrial cities that created the Industrial Revolution in our young country.

The Greenway is a necklace of pocket parks through the Highlands, with recreational and educational opportunities connecting town, county, and state parks and preserving New Jersey's rich canal heritage.

Preserving our canal heritage and open space and our water resources for interpretation and recreation is a noble goal in this, the most densely populated state in the nation.

Thousands of schoolchildren and adults have visited Waterloo and learned about our canal and iron history in the heart of the Highlands.

The Canal Society of New Jersey and Waterloo Village have formed an important bond to preserve the culture and heritage surrounding New Jersey's towpath canals and that's why, Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in honoring these milestones!