

Act Number:	09-091	
Bill Number:	5809	
Senate Pages:	2349-2350, 2585-2588	6
House Pages:	2922, 3305-3306	3
Committee:	Environment: 1040-1043, (1155-1158), 1183-1194	20
	Page Total:	29

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2009**

**VOL. 52
PART 8
2344 - 2636**

tmj
SENATE

6
May 19, 2009

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar page 14, Calendar 611, House Bill 6341. Mr. President, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing on Calendar page 14. Calendar 612, House Bill 6286, Mr. President, mark that "passed temporarily."

Also, Calendar page 14, Calendar 620, House Bill 5664 is marked "go."

Calendar page 15, Calendar 622, House Bill 6496, marked "go."

Continuing Calendar page 15, Calendar 623, House Bill 6588 is marked "passed temporarily".

Calendar page 16, Calendar 627, House Bill 6567 is marked "go."

Continuing Calendar page 16, Calendar 628, House Bill 5809. Mr. President, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

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May 19, 2009

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing Calendar page 16, Calendar 630, House Bill 5519, Mr. President, move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar page 17, Calendar 634, House Bill 6544 is marked "go."

Calendar page 18, Calendar 638, House Bill 6028, Mr. President, move to refer that item to the Committee on Energy and Technology.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing Calendar page 18, Calendar 642, House Bill 6489, Mr. President, move to refer that item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

tmj
SENATE

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that it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Clerk, would you please return to the call of the Calendar. Mr. Majority Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, if the Clerk might call the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

The roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? Mr. President, those items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 5. Calendar Number 392, House Bill 6433.

Calendar 397, Substitute for House Bill 5915.

Calendar 405, House Bill 5536.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 406, House Bill 5873.

Calendar 457, substitute for House Bill 6264.

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Calendar page 12. Calendar Number 599,
substitute for House Bill 6463.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 608, House Bill 6640.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 611, substitute for
House Bill 6341.

Calendar 612, substitute for House Bill 6286.

Calendar 620, substitute for House Bill 5664.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 622, substitute for
House Bill 6496.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 628, House Bill 5809.

Calendar 630, substitute for House Bill 5519.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 284, substitute
for Senate Bill 290.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 103, Senate Bill 754.

Calendar 120, Senate Bill 818.

Calendar 136, Senate Bill 789.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 179, substitute for
Senate Bill 951.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 207, substitute for
Senate Bill 950.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 252, substitute for
Senate Bill 1068.

Calendar page 34, Calendar Number 420, Senate

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Bill 325.

And Calendar page 40, Calendar Number 541, House
Bill 6076.

Mr. President, that completes the items placed on
the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

On the first Consent Calendar, the machine is
open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to
the Chamber? The Senate is now voting by roll call on
the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return
to the Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all the Senators voted? Seeing that all
Senators have voted, the machine will be closed.
Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motions on adoption to the Consent Calendar,
number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36

tmj
SENATE

245
May 19, 2009

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar is adopted. Mr. Majority
Leader.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, a few
more items to be marked "go." First, Calendar page
29, Calendar 249, House Bill 6185. Calendar page 35,
Calendar 424, Senate Bill 1045. Calendar page 36,
Calendar 429, Senate Bill 940. Thank you, Mr.
President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Turning to Calendar page 29, Calendar Number 249,
Files number 49 and 285, House Bill 6185, AN ACT
CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN
PERSONNEL FILE STATUTES as amended by House Amendment,
Schedule "A". Favorably Reported, Committee on Labor
and Judiciary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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ks/med/eb
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 5, 2009

Madam Speaker, I will move that that following
items be placed on the consent calendar: Calendar
Number 262, House Bill Number 5809; Calendar Number
580, Senate Bill Number 905; Calendar Number 585,
Senate Bill Number 1040; Calendar Number 587, Senate
Bill 1136; Calendar Number 588, Senate Bill Number
1411.

A VOICE:

(Inaudible) ask him to repeat the last one.

SPEAKER LEWIS:

Would you kindly repeat the last one,
Representative Mioli?

REP. MIOLI (136TH):

Calendar Number 588, Senate Bill Number 1141.

SPEAKER LEWIS:

Thank you. Hearing no objections, so ordered.

CLERK:

Madam Speaker, there is no further business on
the Clerk's desk.

SPEAKER LEWIS:

The Chair recognizes Representative Mioli of the
136th.

REP. MIOLI (136TH):

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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dt/rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2009

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, Representative.

REP. OLSON (46th):

We're now going to be voting on the Consent Calendar. There were several items moved to the Consent Calendar yesterday, items 262, 580, 587 and 588.

HB 5809
SB 905
SB 1136
SB 1141

Earlier today we moved Item 569 to the Consent Calendar, and that completes the Consent Calendar for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SB 312

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Motion before us is passage of the bills on today's Consent Calendar. Remark? Remark? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting today's consent calendar by roll call. Members to the chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Representative Mioli.

dt/rgd
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 6, 2009

Please check the board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all of the members have voted, the machine will be locked. Hold it.

The machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar:

Total Number Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	142
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	9

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Consent Calendar passes.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move to suspend the rules for the immediate transmittal of Senate Bill 1092, which we just recently voted on, to the Governor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is for suspension of rules for immediate transmittal of Senate Bill 1092 to the

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 4
965 - 1301**

2009

MARY ANN DRAYTON-ROGERS: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

HERMAN SCHULER: Thank you so much for your time.

REP. ROY: Obviously, we now have gone through the first hour, plus. So we're going to start integrating the public portion. So our next speaker will be Lori Romick. And she'll be followed by Mayor Mark Lauretti of Shelton. Thank you.

LORI ROMICK: Honorable Chairman Roy, honorable members of the commission, I'd like to thank you for hearing what I have to say today. My name Lori Romick from the shoreline community of Milford. I've come here today to voice my support of House Bill 5809, an act renaming the state's shellfish vessel, "The John H. Volk."

You've been provided with a 21-year career history of John, the director of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture's work, and list of other related bills with the intent of showing that we are not setting precedent.

There are only three state-owned vessels -- research vessels in the State of Connecticut. Two, the two are the UConn and the John Dempsey.

I'm here representing the friends and family of the late John Volk. Numerous letters of support have been sent to the chairs of the committee. Numerous supporters have signed a petition that was sent to Department of Agriculture -- Commissioner Prelli. We feel that renaming of the current Bureau of Aquaculture vessel, "The Yankee Oyster" to "The John H. Volk" would be the most fitting way to

honor and memorialize John's work.

John requested the state purchase of the vessel in 1984 to begin the much-needed program of cultivating and enhancing the state natural shellfish beds. John chose this vessel because of its low shallow draft, opened deck, and it was easily rigged for oyster dredging or hydraulic clam harvesting. The vessel has a metal hull and can be used year around. It is more able to move through ice than fiberglass hulled vessels.

The purchase of this vessel was the start of John's vision to stimulate aquaculture development in Connecticut. John was a skilled manager able to be efficient while being effective. He made sure that this vessel was utilized to its fullest, not only by his office, moving shell, collecting water samples, and surveying shellfish beds; but also by federal agencies: the National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, conducting studies and dredging surveys. It was utilized by state agencies: The University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut Sea Grant, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, collecting Long Island Sound water quality and sediment data. It was utilized by local groups, such as shellfish commissions, surveying shellfish populations, transferring shellfish stocks to the recreational areas for residents.

John understood the prohibitive costs of having such a vessel for these various groups and made sure that this vessel was available for research studies aimed at improving water quality and habitat of Long Island Sound to all, which ultimately benefited the shellfish

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ckd/lg

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 13, 2009
11:00 A.M.

resources he was promoting and protecting.

John knew well that the management of naturally renewable shellfish resources resulted in sustainable yields and economic stability for the shellfish industry. The shellfish industry could not have been in better hands. We, therefore, feel that having this vessel renamed "The John H. Volk" would be most appropriate and attribute honoring this true steward of Long Island Sound. And, with permission, I would like to read a letter that was handed to me by a local shell fisherman, who had to leave the proceedings today.

REP. ROY: Lori, do we have a -- do we have a copy of that for the committee?

LORI ROMICK: My written statement?

REP. ROY: No, no, the letter.

LORI ROMICK: No. We -- it was submitted by the Sea Grant executive director, Barbara Gordon, but I'm not sure if you have it available. It's from Larry Williams.

REP. ROY: I don't know. He's supposed to speak later. Is he --

LORI ROMICK: He was -- he has to leave. He had to leave.

REP. ROY: Okay. Leave a copy of that with me, and I'll make copies for the committee, which is not usual, but I can't allow you to do the --

LORI ROMICK: Speak for him. That's fine.

REP. ROY: -- the reading. Now, we're passed your three minutes.

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LORI ROMICK: I understand.

REP. ROY: I thank you.

And Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you so much for including John's biography. It's amazing, and I would just read for the committee's benefit. There is a quote here which I think really encapsulates what John and all that he meant to us, and it's from Tim Visel. He says, "I tell my students that one person can make a difference; one person can change things and help shape their future. They often say how do I know it, and I say, it's just true. I knew John Volk." So...thank you.

LORI ROMICK: -- soon is the education coordinator for the Sound's school.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: I would be remiss. I thank you very much. And, you know, I didn't know all this information myself, and I thank you for making us all aware of the value that John has.

LORI ROMICK: You're welcome. John's work speaks for itself. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Any other questions or comments from members of the committee? I'm going to make one comment, and John Volk was -- lived two blocks from me for the last 40 years so, you know, which side I'm going to be on when it comes to vote, but I want that out there publicly. I don't -- no, no hiding.



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(HB 5809)

Print Status of Bills on This List
8 bills with "naming" in title In Session Year 2009

Bill Number	Title
HB05259	AN ACT NAMING A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 8 IN MEMORY OF TROOPER JAMES SAVAGE.
HB05809	AN ACT RENAMING THE STATE'S SHELLFISH RESEARCH VESSEL THE "JOHN H. VOLK".
HB06082	AN ACT NAMING THE PART OF ROUTE 10 LOCATED IN CENTRAL SOUTHWINGTON IN MEMORY OF POLICE CHIEF TOM FOLEY.
HB06211	AN ACT NAMING THE PORTION OF ROUTE 82 BETWEEN SALEM FOUR CORNERS TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 11 IN SALEM THE OFFICER H. DAVID CORDELL MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.
HB06217	AN ACT NAMING ROUTE 22 IN NEW HAVEN WEST OF U.S. ROUTE 5 IN HONOR OF AMVETS POST NO. 9.
SB00148	AN ACT CONCERNING THE NAMING OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MEMORY OF PERSONS OR IN COMMEMORATION OF ORGANIZATIONS.
SB00562	AN ACT NAMING A PORTION OF ROUTE 309 TO ROUTE 167 IN SIMSBURY.
SB00740	AN ACT NAMING THE ROUTE 4 BRIDGE IN FARMINGTON IN MEMORY OF VINCENT DIPIETRO.



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AN ACT CONCERNING THE NAMING OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS B... Page 1 of 1



General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 148
LCO No. 369

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

SEN. DEFRONZO, 6th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NAMING OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MEMORY OF PERSONS OR IN COMMEMORATION OF ORGANIZATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the General Assembly may name roads, bridges and highways in memory of persons or in commemoration of organizations and the Department of Transportation shall erect suitable signage at such locations.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the naming of roads, bridges and highways by the General Assembly.



General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 740
LCO No. 2064

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

SEN. HARRIS, 5th Dist.

SEN. DEFRONZO, 6th Dist.

REP. GIANNAROS, 21st Dist.

REP. BYE, 19th Dist.

AN ACT NAMING THE ROUTE 4 BRIDGE IN FARMINGTON IN MEMORY OF VINCENT DIPIETRO.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the Route 4 Bridge in Farmington shall be named the Vincent DiPietro Memorial Bridge.

Statement of Purpose:

To honor the public service of Vincent DiPietro.

General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 562
LCO No. 1160

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

REP. SCHOFIELD, 16th Dist.

AN ACT NAMING A PORTION OF ROUTE 309 TO ROUTE 167 IN SIMSBURY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the portion of Route 309 from Sugar Loaf Cut to Route 167 in Simsbury shall be renamed the "Sergeant Felix M. Del Greco, Jr. Memorial Highway", with suitable markers.

Statement of Purpose:

To name a portion of Route 309 in Simsbury in honor of Sergeant Felix M. Del Greco, Jr., who was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.



General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 6217
LCO No. 2107

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

REP. FONTANA, 87th Dist.

AN ACT NAMING ROUTE 22 IN NEW HAVEN WEST OF U.S. ROUTE 5 IN HONOR OF AMVETS POST NO. 9.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That Route 22 in New Haven west of U.S. Route 5 shall be named the Amvets Post No. 9 Highway.

Statement of Purpose:

To honor and commemorate the service of our veterans.

General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 6211
LCO No. 1754

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

REP. JUTILA, 37th Dist.

SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.

AN ACT NAMING THE PORTION OF ROUTE 82 BETWEEN SALEM FOUR CORNERS TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 11 IN SALEM THE OFFICER H. DAVID CORDELL MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the Department of Transportation shall designate the stretch of road on Route 82 between Salem Four Corners and the junction of Route 11 in Salem the Officer H. David Cordell Memorial Highway.

Statement of Purpose:

To honor the memory of fallen Officer H. David Cordell for his service as a police officer.

General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 5809
LCO No. 850

Referred to Committee on Environment
Introduced by:
REP. ROY, 119th Dist.

AN ACT RENAMING THE STATE'S SHELLFISH RESEARCH VESSEL THE "JOHN H. VOLK".

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to require the Department of Agriculture's dedicated vessel, used for the research and survey of shellfish populations in Long Island Sound and docked at the Bureau of Aquaculture office in Milford, be named the "John H. Volk" for a period of no less than twenty years and that if the current vessel, "Yankee Oyster", is removed from state service, the next most prominent vessel by size and use docked at the Bureau of Aquaculture in Milford be named the "John H. Volk" until such time that a larger and more prominent research vessel is acquired for such research and survey purposes.

Statement of Purpose:

To rename the state's shellfish research vessel after the late John H. Volk in recognition of his long and meritorious service to the state and its shellfish industry.

General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 6082
LCO No. 1346

Referred to Committee on Transportation
Introduced by:
REP. ZALASKI, 81st Dist.

AN ACT NAMING THE PART OF ROUTE 10 LOCATED IN CENTRAL SOUTHTON IN MEMORY OF POLICE CHIEF TOM FOLEY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the portion of Route 10 located in central Southington be named in memory of Police Chief Tom Foley.

Statement of Purpose:

To honor Tim Foley who was Southington's first police chief and was killed by a car in front of the old Colonial theater in downtown Southington.

General Assembly
January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 5259
LCO No. 91

Referred to Committee on Transportation
Introduced by:
REP. MINER, 66th Dist.

AN ACT NAMING A BRIDGE ON ROUTE 8 IN MEMORY OF TROOPER JAMES SAVAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That bridge #00608 on state Route 8 near the Harwinton/Litchfield town line be named in memory of Trooper James Savage.

Statement of Purpose:

To name bridge #00608 on state Route 8 in memory of Trooper James Savage.

20 Rolling Green
Granby, CT 06035

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Members of the Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

RE: Proposed Bill No. 5809: **AN ACT RENAMING THE STATE'S
SHELLFISH RESEARCH VESSEL THE "JOHN H. VOLK".**

In the Spring of 1983, before the state budget was passed, I carried a letter to a boat builder in Warren, Rhode Island. It was from Janet Polinski and Mark Powers, who were the co-chairs of the Appropriations Subcommittee concerning Conservation and Development. The letter stated that the General Assembly would include in its budget \$100,000 to purchase a vessel for the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Agriculture.

On the strength of the letter, the boat builder readied the boat for John Volk and his dedicated staff at Milford, CT. Over the ensuing years, the Yankee Oyster enabled the Aquaculture Division to survey and monitor the health of the State's oyster beds.

John Volk bestowed an honor on me for my help in lobbying the Legislature to accomplish the purchase of the Yankee Oyster. I am the proud recipient of a "Golden Oyster." It was John's way of recognizing people who helped the State Aquaculture Division. He would dip an oyster in gold paint and affix it to a plaque, and add an appropriate engraving.

I write in support of renaming the research vessel the John H. Volk, in honor of a man who was a fine public servant who worked with dedication for the health of Long Island Sound and in support of the people who make their living on its waters. His ability to shape public policy and carry out programs beneficial to the Sound was immense. He was a true leader, a kind hearted man, and is very deserving of this posthumous honor.

Sincerely,



Mary Goodhouse

Shellfish Industry Pioneer: John H. Volk

December 1, 1946 –November 12, 2007

John Henry Volk lived his life on the shores of Woodmont in Milford, CT diving, sailing, fishing, surfing and kayaking in Long Island Sound.

John served in the United States Navy from 1968 to 1972. He graduated Cum Laude from the University of New Haven in 1975 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Studies.



He started his shellfish career working for Long Island Oyster Farms as their principal biologist from 1978 to 1982. During that time, John collaborated with the Milford National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA) Laboratory monitoring the time of oyster settling at various locations in Long Island Sound by looking for larvae in seawater samples and checking bags of shell for oyster spat. John continued this important work for many years.

In 1982, he accepted the position of Director for the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Division (currently Bureau of Aquaculture) and remained in that position until his retirement in 2003.

Through the years many supporters have described John as being the "right person for the job." John joined the DoA as the replacement for John (Jack) Baker. Jack Baker had begun to make the CT Shellfish Aquaculture Program a force for advancing shellfish farming in CT but it fell to John Volk to take those ideas, integrate them with his own and make the program work. John was able to create a shellfish farming program that makes CT one of the most envied States in the country. While Jack Baker recognized the importance that the fishery could have and nurtured its recovery from the storms, starfish and disease problems that plagued it from the 1950's, it fell to John Volk to culture a program with credibility, respect and the daring which protects the present resources while striving to expand the industry into the foreseeable future. Along the way John established and maintained partnerships and friendships with politicians, researchers, regulators and within the industry he regulated. He was a unique blend of scientist, experienced harvester (with time in the wheelhouse and on the foredeck), and a personable man who wanted to see the shellfish industry flourish. John evolved the shellfish program from its roots in the late eighteen hundreds into the twenty-first century.

During the 1980's John chaired the Legislative Aquaculture Commission study and the Aquaculture Committee for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission (ISSC). Together, with John's guidance, industry, regulatory agencies, education and municipal officials all met to lay the framework for aquaculture development in the State of Connecticut. John's ability to shape the outcome provided the critical foundation for aquaculture in our State and for that matter, the country.

John was also an advisor, playing a major role, supporting the State's effort to build regional vocational aquaculture schools. During the winter of 1982, and soon after he began as Division Chief, John had an opportunity to suggest that education be part of the legislative commission on aquaculture. When the final report was issued in January 1986, it included a provision that the State should move forward with the establishment of aquaculture high schools. Today, we have two such schools with the possibility of one more. And all thanks to John's vision and his care for the environment.



In 1987, John was selected as a United States Aquaculture Ambassador for the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program, Shellfish Research and Production Delegation to the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). He had the privilege of meeting with government officials, ministers of agriculture, and aquaculturists as well as university professors, laboratory directors and staff.

Perhaps the most important single project that John oversaw, was the integration of the State Health Department Shellfish Sanitation responsibilities into the new Bureau of Aquaculture in 1989. When the "engagement" of the programs was announced the Health Department staff performing shellfish sanitation testing was comfortably located in Hartford, the regulators were well established in Milford and there wasn't space or funding available to consolidate the programs. While in hindsight it looks like a marriage made in heaven, for the folks in Milford, it meant growing in every sense of the word. For the staff at the Health Department, it meant uprooting and relocating from Hartford and the well supplied laboratories there. The state of the art, shellfish management building at 190 Rogers Avenue is a tribute to the efforts of many people, particularly the Bloom Brothers Shellfish Companies, but it was John who oversaw and developed the programs that set the stage for the remarkable successes of the shellfish industry into the late 1990s.

The 1990's was an extremely productive period during John's career. He was an active participant on many shellfish committees directing the shellfish program at a national level developing initiatives, writing regulations, and collaborating on numerous research studies. The Bureau provided assistance to UCONN, NMFS, the EPA, and local shellfish commissions. John participated in annual Fishery Forums at Avery Point. John worked with specialists from the Department to Environmental Protection conducting resource and habitat surveys and developing shellfish resource maps for the CT coastline. In 1993 John became a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Aquaculture Coordinators. John wholeheartedly supported and was instrumental in the formation of the CT Seafood Council promoting CT shellfish. John continued to foster the growth of the industry and protection of this most valuable natural and renewable resource in 1997 by engaging State Legislators to have funding bonded for an oyster cultch program that would aid in the continued recruitment of setting oysters for the industry off of the State Natural Shellfish Beds.

Although not the first of its kind for John to deal with, John's greatest hurdle, the Cross Sound Cable project, was placed during the early 2000's. John put himself in the forefront of people working to limit any adverse impacts and to advance our understanding of placement and operation consequences. Leading the initial opposition to the proposal, strongly voicing his opposition to the degradation that he believed would be the result, John ventured into the Connecticut State Siting Council hearings armed with facts that helped convince them that an alignment that crossed healthy shellfish beds should be avoided. While that initial alignment proposed to parallel the Federal Navigation project it would have crossed some of the most productive shellfish setting beds in the entire State. Those efforts established their right to testify, the value of that testimony to such proceedings and their daring intervention helped carry the day for the shellfisheries. The alignment was denied. The next alignment offered by the Utility Company avoided the beds but would sit within the channel and cross three Shellfish Company's beds as it stretched to Shoreham, New York. As he had with the Iroquois Gas Pipeline and the Norwalk power cables, John returned to the negotiation table to develop monitoring and mitigation plans that would protect CT shellfish and harvesters from unanticipated situations. While others around him focused on perceptions, John led the Bureau of Aquaculture on a search for truth and knowledge. We are the better for his efforts and regulators faced with cabling projects routinely refer to the guidance generated by the monitoring program for the project.

John was an active member of many boards and commissions including; the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission, Northeast Shellfish Sanitation Association, National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators, Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture School, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Connecticut Coves and Embayment Advisory Board, Connecticut State Aquaculture Commission, Connecticut Sea Grant Grants Committee, and the Connecticut Seafood Council.

During his twenty-one years in State service (1982-2003), John received several awards of achievement and commendation, including; several State of CT awards for Excellent Managerial Performance, an Honorary State Future Farmers of America degree, the Rhode Island House of Representatives Citation for Expertise in Aquaculture, and the CT Governor's Award for service to the state. John was long recognized as the consummate expert for issues pertaining to Long Island Sound and the shellfish industry. He also authored numerous shellfish and aquaculture related journal articles.

"I tell my students that one person can make a difference, one person can change things and help shape their future. They often say how do I know it, and I say, it's just true. I knew John Volk." (Tim Visel)

"May his example be followed and his service never be forgotten." (LR)

Contributors: Lori Romick, Mike Ludwig, Tim Visel, Renee Mercaldo-Allen, Sandy Macfarlane, and Nancy Balcom

barbara c. gordon

February 13, 2009

Senator Ed Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chair
Members of the Environment Committee

Re: Proposed H.B. No. 5809 An Act Renaming The State Shellfish Research Vessel
the "JOHN H. VOLK".

Quite a few years ago, when I first began my affiliation with the CT Seafood Council, I met a gentleman who was the director of the Bureau of Aquaculture in Milford. He became my mentor, my advisor, and my source of knowledge about the shellfish industry.

My family had been in the wholesale/retail seafood business for many years and I knew quite a bit about selling fish – but it was John H. Volk who taught me so much about the source of shellfish, the rules governing the safety of Connecticut's product, and the awesome life of shellfishermen. John and I became close friends; we spoke daily and shared our hopes and dreams for the industry we both loved. We also shared the monumental effort of attempting to stop the Cross Sound Cable and later, the Islander East project.

John's untimely death from a malignant brain tumor left a huge void in our industry and in the lives of those of us who worked so closely with him. John was a man of not only incredible knowledge and good judgement but of unshakable integrity. He was a role model for everyone in state government.

No one has ever done more for the shellfish industry than John. He loved his work at the Bureau of Aquaculture and it was apparent in everything he did to promote and protect his beloved industry.

Naming of the state research vessel after John would be a wonderful way to honor his memory.

Please support legislation to re-name the state vessel the "JOHN H., VOLK".

Thank you.



Barbara Gordon,
Executive Director
CT Seafood Council

Public hearing date: February 13, 2009

Name: Lori Romick

Address: 10 Valery Court, Milford, CT 06461

SUPPORT for Senate Bill #5809 (LCO #850) ,

An Act Renaming the State's Shellfish Research Vessel the "John H. Volk"

To: The Honorable Richard Roy, Co-Chairman, The Honorable Edward Meyer, Co-Chairman, The Honorable Paul Davis, Vice-Chairman, The Honorable Andrew M. Maynard, Vice Chairman, The Honorable John McKinney, Ranking Member, The Honorable Clark J. Chapin, Ranking Member and the Members of the Environment Committee

The Friends and Family of John Volk respectfully request consideration by the State Legislature to honor a lifelong commitment to the natural and economic resources of the State, Long Island Sound and the CT Shellfish Industry by permitting the re-naming of the current research vessel (Yankee Oyster) to the "John H. Volk."

John was a true leader setting an example of not only what a state employee should be, but what a true steward is, protecting one of our most valuable resources, Long Island Sound. We wish that his legacy may continue.

- *John H. Volk was the dedicated Director for the distinct office of the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture for 21 years, from 1982 through 2003, balancing the role of regulator with the role of industry supporter.*
- *John spent his career diligently working for the shellfish industry and for improvements to Long Island Sound. John respected both the economic and biologic value of this natural and renewable resource and had great foresight.*
- *The citizens of CT have benefited greatly by his undaunting efforts to protect our marine resources, support efforts to restore the Sound's health, and to promote this economically valuable industry and recreational opportunity.*

- *John actively worked with many Federal, State, and local group including the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission, Northeast Shellfish Sanitation Association, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Connecticut Coves and Embayment Advisory Board, and Connecticut Sea Grant Review Panel. He was a member of the Long Island Sound Advisory Council, and a founding member of the CT Seafood Council. Under his leadership the Bureau provided assistance to the University of Connecticut, National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and local shellfish commissions. John worked with specialists from the Department of Environmental Protection conducting resource and habitat surveys and developing shellfish resource maps for the coastline.*
- *John was also an advisor, playing a major role, supporting the State's effort to build two regional vocational aquaculture schools.*
- *During the 1980's John chaired the Legislative Aquaculture Commission Study and the Aquaculture Committee for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission (ISSC). Together, with John's guidance, industry, regulatory agencies, education and municipal officials all met to lay the framework for aquaculture development in the State of Connecticut, and for that matter, the country.*
- *In 1993, John became a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Aquaculture Coordinators. John continued to foster the growth of the industry and protection of this most valuable natural and renewable resource in 1997 by engaging State legislators to have funding bonded for an oyster cultch program that would aid in the continued recruitment of setting oysters for the industry off of the State Natural Shellfish Beds.*
- *During his State career John received several State awards for Excellent Managerial Performance, an Honorary State Future Farmers of America degree, the Rhode Island House of Representatives Citation for Expertise in Aquaculture, and the Governor's Award for service to the state. John was long recognized as the consummate expert for issues pertaining to Long Island Sound and the shellfish industry.*

Unlike buildings, bridges, and other state property; all State research vessels are named. This vessel naming is not for a state construction project but for a specific piece of State equipment that was utilized to its fullest by John's direction for the continued growth of a historically and culturally Connecticut resource. This vessel has a specific use and was chosen for a specific purpose and its duties were decided by a specific individual; John H. Volk.

The current Bureau vessel was purchased from the State of Rhode Island in 1986 when John submitted his report to stimulate aquaculture development in the State. The vessel was originally named the "Rhode Oyster," and then renamed to the "Yankee Oyster." This requested renaming will long recognize John's significant contributions to a distinct State resource. We are requesting the change in the name of a vessel and are willing to provide funding for the repainting.

We feel that as the Bureau vessel was under his immediate direction and will serve as a fitting memorial tribute to his efforts. The shellfish resource and industry could not have been in better hands.

Respectfully submitted: The Friends and Family of John H. Volk

C/O Lori Romick

10 Valery Court, Milford, CT 06461

203-214-4637 (cell) / e-mail: lromick@optonline.net

Rebuttals:

- There are those that when asked of the plans for a tribute to John responded by saying that a plaque at the Bureau aquaculture would be fitting.

A plaque would be seen by very few. The effort expended by the late former Director Volk would not be appreciated with a token as small as a plaque. John's dream was to respect the value of Long Island Sound and the natural renewable shellfish resources for the citizens, recreational and commercial, of the State by protecting it and properly managing the resource.

For those that work and recreate on Long Island Sound, and for those that enjoy the bounty that it provides putting John H. Volk's name on the very vessel used to accomplish his goals would allow his name to be remembered and his dedication to continue. It would remind all of us who knew and respected him that his legacy will continue setting an example to be followed by others.

John utilized the vessel for a dedicated purpose. The legislature should continue to fund the utilization of this vessel for the purposes of surveying available shellfish resources and as assistance to the local shellfish commissions in the management and continued propagation of an important biologic and economic

naturally renewable resource from Long Island Sound. Bonding may be set for fuel and maintenance expenses.

- *There are those that are concerned with setting precedent.*

All state research vessels are named.

This vessel had a specific purpose under a specific director for 21 years.

This individual was considered to be the State expert on shellfish.

This individual always put the protection of Long Island Sound first knowing that by protecting the Sound, he was protecting not only the shellfish resource but all resources.

The renaming of this specific vessel represents commitment, dedication, and unselfish perseverance for the responsible management of the shellfish resources for the citizens of the state and as an integral part of long Island Sound.

- *There are those that feel that the current Bureau of Aquaculture vessel will not be put to good use or may be removed from State service.*

The vessel was purchased by a Director with foresight to be utilized for the continued management of a naturally renewable resource. As John utilized all Bureau vessels to their fullest by various local (State universities, shellfish commissions, aquaculture schools), state (DEP, economic development, Ct Sea Grant), and various federal agencies (Army Corps of Engineers, Food and Drug Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service).

A vessel should continue to be available for these various agencies that require assistance supporting the resource and continuing to aid in protecting Long Island Sound.

February 12, 2009

Testimony Regarding

Proposed House Bill 5809

**An Act Renaming the State's Shellfish Research Vessel the
John H. Volk**

Made before the

Environment Committee

My name is John Filchak. I appear before you today to express my **strong support** and to urge the Committee's **favorable consideration for Proposed House Bill 5809, An Act Renaming the State's Shellfish Research Vessel the John H. Volk.**

When I think of aquaculture - I think of John Volk. The two, to me, are synonymous. I served as the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for Governor Weicker. During that time, I had the opportunity to work closely with John. For John, his work in aquaculture for our state was not a job - it was his passion. You only needed to spend a short time with him to understand this reality. His expertise and the respect he had within the shellfish industry made him invaluable. The recapture of thousands of acres of shellfish beds, the aquaculture laboratory are all a direct result of his work and passion for what he did.

The renaming of the research vessel in honor of John Volk is a fitting tribute. In large part, it was his steady hand that successfully guided this unique and valued element of Connecticut agriculture. While he is missed - this proposal will ensure that he is not forgotten.

Thank you.

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141-0120

Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2009*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5809, An Act Renaming the State's Shellfish Research Vessel, the "John H. Volk".

This proposal would, quite appropriately, name the Department of Agriculture's research vessel that is dedicated to the research and survey of shellfish in Long Island Sound, the John H. Volk.

John Volk was a hard-working, dedicated state employee who truly loved his work as director of the Bureau of Aquaculture for 21 years. John provided invaluable assistance and advocacy in promoting Long Island Sound. His work on the Atlantic States Marine fisheries Commission and the Long Island Sound Advisory Board brought a strong voice for protecting the sensitive environment and ecology of the Sound while promoting its industries, most notably shellfish.

During his life, John received many honors for his work and passion on behalf of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. It is, without doubt, most appropriate that the state of Connecticut continuously recognize and respect his contributions through the naming of our shellfish research vessel, the "John H. Volk".

I strong urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 5809.

February 12, 2009

Senator Ed Mayer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chair
Members of the Environment Committee

RE: Proposed H.B. No. 5809 An Act Renaming The State Shellfish Research Vessel

The "JOHN H. VOLK".

As a shell fisherman for 35 years, I can think of no greater tribute than to name a state vessel after the man who helped so many over his career. John Volk was an advocate, outspoken supporter, and coupled with his personal experience, an extremely rare individual who believed in the shell fish industry and its leasing system with all his heart.

There are many companies that owe their start to John, my own included. A personal friend, I had the privilege to experience his dedication and belief in his position. John's oversight was tempered by a commitment to an enduring transgenerational outlook. He always looked to the future, aware that the choices he made would directly effect the strength of the program. We have a strong industry today because of the quality of his commitment, as well as his character, truly one of a kind. The State of Connecticut got it right when he was hired as director of Aquaculture.

His passing is a very personal loss for me and an even greater loss for the industry he loved so much.

I miss him dearly.

Lawrence Williams

