

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-C003
TITLE: Commemoration of John Jay
PROPOSER: Diocese of Newark
COMMITTEE: Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

Directly Related: (attached)

None

Indirectly Related:

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

TOPIC/TITLE: Church Calendar: Commemoration of John Jay

PROPOSER: Diocese of Newark

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention commend
2 the name of John Jay to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for its
3 consideration of the possible addition of Chief Justice Jay to the Calendar of The
4 Episcopal Church for commemoration on May 17th, the day of his death, and request that
5 it report on this matter to the 77th General Convention.
6

EXPLANATION:

Our church calendar celebrates only one American layman, Jonathan Daniels, a seminarian. To amend this omission, commemoration of John Jay is proposed. Jay (December 12, 1745 - May 17, 1829) was a "founding father" of state and church: President of the Continental Congress and first Chief Justice of the United States, an associate of William White (the first Presiding Bishop and chaplain to the Continental Congress) and delegate to the convention that framed the church's Constitution in a way commendable to the English Church. He personally paved the way for the Archbishop of Canterbury's consecration of the second, third and fourth bishops of The Episcopal Church (the first having been ordained by bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church), thereby fostering the emergence of the Anglican Communion. Jay was a charter member of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the corporate title of The Episcopal Church). According to his biographer, "Unlike many of the other Founders, Jay was an openly religious man. He quoted from and paraphrased the Bible in his political papers; he served as a leader of his parish church and of the national church; and he was a [founder and] president of the American Bible Society." His social conscience was formed as an abolitionist as early as 1777. A founder of the Society for Promoting the Manumission of Slaves and the African Free School, he crusaded for the phased abolition of slavery in New York, signing the 1799 Abolition Act as Governor of New York. He was a graduate of Kings College (now Columbia University), warden of Trinity Church, Wall Street, and a founding member and warden of St Matthew's Church in Bedford, Westchester County. Jay married Sarah Livingston at her home in Elizabeth, New Jersey (then Elizabeth Town) in 1774 and his family lived in New Jersey through most of the Revolutionary War while New York City was under British occupation.