

Janice Williams

From: Kathleen McKeel <mckeel.kathleen.cga@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 12:47 PM
To: info@co.northampton.va.us
Subject: Boat Safe Week
Attachments: Northampton SBW Proclamation .doc

Northampton County Board of Supervisors

The month of May is fast approaching the Boating season. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 054-12-02 in Painter, would like the Town of Onancock to be part of the declaration and proclamation of the 2016 National Safe Boating Week: May 21 – 27.

For nearly 90 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing.

We are asking for you, the various local Governments, to help us in the proclamation of National Safe Boating Week. Boaters who careful plan and check their equipment are more likely to have happy enjoyable boating experience on the water.

Wishing you many hours of safe boating.

Safe Boating Week

May 21 -27

Kathleen McKeel PA Flotilla 054 - 12 - 02

PROCLAMATION
PROCLAIMING
MAY 21 THROUGH MAY 27, 2016
as
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

Recreational boating is fun and enjoyable, and we are fortunate that we have sufficient resources to accommodate the wide variety of pleasure boating demands. However, our waterways can become crowded at times and be a place of chaos and confusion. While being a marvelous source of recreation, boating, to the unprepared, can be a risky sport. Not knowing or obeying the Navigation Rules or the nautical "Rules of the Road," drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat, or choosing not to wear your life jacket when doing so is clearly NOT the smart thing to do, are all examples of human error or a lack of proper judgment. One particular behavior that can reduce the number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year by approximately 80% is the wearing of a life jacket. It is a simple task that has the potential to reduce terrible loss in lives.

Whereas, on average, 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; nearly 70% of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

Whereas, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

Whereas, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

Whereas, modern life jackets are more comfortable, more attractive, and more wearable than styles of years past and deserve a fresh look by today's boating public and

Whereas, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-02 Painter, provides safe boating instruction for persons of all ages in order to prevent boating accidents and to teach rescue and survival techniques in case one does occur.

Therefore, I, _____, do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 21-27, 2016, as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating. And I encourage all boaters to wear their life jackets, boat responsibly, and enroll in a safe boating class.

In Witness Whereof, I urge all those who boat to "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it." and practice safe boating habits.

Given under my signature and the seal of **The County of Northampton, Virginia**
this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Chairman
Northampton County Board of Supervisors