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NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2022
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MAYOR ADAMS COMMISSIONS *DOROTHY DAY* STATEN ISLAND FERRY

Ferry Named for Renowned Catholic Activist Who Lived and Worked on Staten Island

\$85 Million State-of-the-Art Ferry to Set Sail Later This Year

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez today officially commissioned the *Dorothy Day*, the third and final new, 4,500-passenger *Ollis*-class Staten Island Ferry vessel joining the fleet this year. The \$85 million, state-of-the-art ferry is named for Day, the legendary 20th-century Catholic peace activist. The *Dorothy Day* has completed harbor trials and passed U.S. Coast Guard inspections — and will serve passengers for the first time later this year.

“Dorothy Day represents so much of what is great about New Yorkers and our city, and we are proud to honor her by commissioning this Staten Island Ferry,” said **Mayor Adams**. “Having her name on this boat will remind New Yorkers and visitors alike of her fight for peace and against hunger, fights that we are continuing every day. Thank you to all of those carrying on her legacy.”

“The Staten Island Ferry is a staple of life in New York — shepherding almost 10 million people to and from Staten Island every year. It’s only right that we modernize our fleet to ensure the country’s busiest ferry route operates effectively,” said **Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi**. “Dorothy Day was an incredible activist and a stalwart New Yorker. I’m glad that we are honoring her memory with our newest ferry. I am grateful to the crews at DOT that tirelessly keep this gateway to our great borough open, and I can’t wait to take a ride on the *Dorothy Day*.”

“We at DOT and the incredible Staten Island Ferry staff are proud to celebrate Dorothy Day today, and we are excited to bring the ferry with her name into service later this year,” said **DOT Commissioner Rodriguez**. “During her life, Day loved riding this ferry — as she knew how a short ferry ride can serve as a peaceful, even meaningful, escape from the hustle and bustle of the life in our city. Best of all, given her lifetime commitment to equity, Day would be thrilled at how DOT is committed to keeping admission to this ferry free for all.”

The newest Staten Island Ferry, the *Dorothy Day*, is preceded by two new ferries this past year, all constructed by Eastern Shipbuilding in Panama City, FL. The *Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis* — named for a war hero from New Dorp killed saving the life of a fellow soldier in

Afghanistan — [began passenger service](#) in February. The Sandy Ground — the second *Ollis*-class boat, which honors one of the nation's first Black settlements that was located on Staten Island's South Shore and served as a stop on the Underground Railroad — was [commissioned by Mayor Adams](#) in February and [began regular passenger service](#) in June.

The three new *Ollis*-class ferries commissioned this year come with support from funds provided by a range of federal agencies and elected officials, including U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The new ferries are larger, more modern, and safer in extreme weather than earlier fleets. They feature popular design elements of past Staten Island Ferries, including phone-charging outlets and more comfortable seating, as well as an oval upper-deck promenade that serves, for the first time, as an outdoor “walking track” for riders.

“My grandmother loved the Staten Island Ferry, so what an honor to have one named after her,” said **Martha Hennessy, social justice activist and granddaughter of Dorothy Day**. “In these days of global instability, let us use this moment to remember her efforts to make peace.”

“Dorothy Day is one of the most significant figures in the history of the church in the United States, and we pray she will one day be a saint,” said **Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York**. “She was also a devoted resident of Staten Island and Manhattan. It is fitting that this ferry will keep her name alive, and, please God, help introduce new generations to her radical love of God and neighbor.”

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was a convert to Catholicism who led the Catholic Worker movement, founded during the Great Depression. As editor of *The Catholic Worker* newspaper, she maintained the movement's pacifism even during World War II, while operating soup kitchens, including one on the Lower East Side of Manhattan that remains in operation today. Day was repeatedly arrested for her postwar protests during New York City's air raid drills, which criticized nuclear war preparation. Hailed by Pope Francis in his speech to the U.S. Congress in 2015, Day has been submitted to the Vatican as a candidate for canonization by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Day regularly rode the Staten Island Ferry to reach her cottage on Staten Island's South Shore and is buried in Pleasant Plains.

“For more than 200 years, the Staten Island Ferry has been a symbol of New York City's harbor and an integral part of our city's transportation system,” said **U.S. Representative Nicole Malliotakis**. “I was able to visit the facility where the *Dorothy Day* ferry was built and to christen her last year. Our city's commuters will benefit greatly from having this new state-of-the-art ship as part of its fleet.”

“We are pleased to welcome the last vessel of the *Ollis*-class Staten Island Ferry fleet named in honor of Staten Islander Dorothy Day. Millions of commuters and visitors will ride this ferry, and many will get to know her story,” said **Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella**. “We want to thank DOT Commissioner Rodriguez and Borough Commissioner Caruana for their support in this effort and are honored to share in this proud moment for Staten Island today.”

“While most of the world knew Dorothy Day as an activist and a radical, her neighbors on the South Shore knew her as a kind and generous woman of deep Catholic faith who loved her community,” said **New York City Council Minority Leader Joseph Borelli**. “It is appropriate that generations of Staten Islanders will now ride a boat dedicated to her memory.”

“Ferries are a crucial component of the city’s transit system,” said **New York City Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**. “I applaud the administration’s efforts to build a safer, more modern ferry fleet, and I am excited that the newest member of the fleet will bear the name of Dorothy Day, a New York City hero. I look forward to continued investment in and expansion of our ferry network.”

“Dorothy Day was the picture of leadership, advocacy, and activism,” said **New York City Councilmember Kamillah Hanks**. “Her work was unapologetic and full of conviction, fighting for and taking care of those who could not do it for themselves. She was — and remains — a part of Staten Island’s history, and the commissioning of the Dorothy Day ferry will help keep this piece of our borough’s history in the minds of residents and visitors for years to come.”

“Dorothy Day was an intrepid leader whose impact is still deeply felt in my district on the Lower East Side,” said **New York City Councilmember Christopher Marte**. “Her commitment to addressing both the daily and systemic issues faced by New York’s most marginalized communities make her not just an exemplary citizen, but a historic movement leader. I am so glad that a new Staten Island Ferry will carry her name to further immortalize her footprint on our city.”

“Dorothy Day left an indelible mark on New York City’s history, having dedicated her life to shining a light on injustice and fighting to create positive change,” said **New York City Councilmember Carlina Rivera**. “She was a social activist and journalist who spent some time living on the Lower East Side and found a community of like-minded advocates in the East Village. Naming the newest Staten Island Ferry after Dorothy Day will ensure her legacy lives on.”

“It has been an honor for our company to build the three *Ollis*-class Staten Island Ferries for the citizens of New York City, marking a bold new chapter in the Staten Island Ferry’s 200-year-old legacy of public transportation,” said **Joey D’Isernia, president, Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG)**. “These cutting-edge ferries are now the premier vessels of the world’s busiest passenger-only ferry system that has reliably served the people of New York and the millions of tourists New York City welcomes each year. With the delivery of the *Ollis* class, ESG is proud to continue this time-honored tradition for decades to come.”

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