

# Sample Invite letter

October 10, 2014

Mr. Howard G. Sutton  
President and CEO  
*Providence Journal*  
75 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02902-9985

Dear Howard,

Thanks to the generosity of the Heritage Harbor Foundation and two dozen Dorr pedestal pushers the dedication of the Thomas Wilson Dorr exhibit at the State House has been scheduled.

The event will take place on November 5<sup>th</sup> (Dorr's birthday) at 5:00 p.m. at the entrance to the Senate Chamber with a gathering to follow in the Governor's Reception Room. It is being coordinated by Governor's Chafee's staff.

Among the groups participating are the State House Restoration Society (which supervised the project and produced the exhibit design); the Rhode Island Publications Society (which raised the money for the display by soliciting two dozen Dorr devotees); the Dorr donors themselves; the board of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (of which Dorr is a member); and the Heritage Harbor board of directors representing the organization that placed the sculpture (which was originally destined for the Heritage Harbor Museum).

Governor Chafee, Secretary of State Ralph Mollis, and Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed have been strong supporters of this project, and, as such, they have been invited to speak.

All attendees will receive complimentary copies of the updated edition of the beautiful color-illustrated book *The State Houses of Rhode Island* as a memento of the event. I updated this volume as my contribution to the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Charter of 1663. As you may recall, prior to the creation of the Charter Room on the first floor in 2013, the Charter was displayed at the entrance to the Senate, where Dorr now stands. It is most fitting that Tom Dorr replaces the Charter for a second time.

Spouses and friends of the various contributors are also invited to participate in the observance. Birthday cake will be served along with other light fare compliments of the Heritage Harbor Museum's Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

(Dr.) Patrick T. Conley

PTC:aml

**Formal State House Dedication  
of  
The Governor Thomas Wilson Dorr  
Sculpture and Pedestal**

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November 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.  
at  
The Entrance to the Senate Chamber  
and  
The Governor's Reception Room

**Participants**

The Donors who contributed to the creation of the sculpture, the pedestal, and the plaque

The State House Restoration Society

The Heritage Harbor Museum and Foundation

The Rhode Island Publications Society

The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame

**Master of Ceremonies**

Dr. Patrick T. Conley  
Historian Laureate of Rhode Island

**Invocation**

The Rev. Dr. Robert Hayman, Donor and Archivist of the Diocese of Providence

**Speakers**

**Jonathan Stevens**, Executive Director of the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter Commission  
representing Governor Lincoln Chafee

**Paul F. Caranci**, Deputy Secretary of State  
representing Secretary of State Ralph Mollis

**Patrick T. Conley**

**Benediction**

Rev. Eugene McKenna, Donor, Pastor Emeritus, St. Lucy's Parish, Middletown

**Reception**

Collation featuring the cutting of Governor Dorr's Birthday Cake  
(November 5, 1805--November 5, 2014)  
and  
Presentation of the new edition of *The State Houses of Rhode Island*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 28, 2014**

### **Dorr Dedication at State House on His Birthday--November 5<sup>th</sup>**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the day on which Governor Thomas Wilson Dorr was born in 1805, several groups will participate in the formal dedication of the Dorr sculpture at the Rhode Island State House. The life-size statue, meticulously carved by sculptor Joseph Avarista, was moved to the State House from its temporary home in the Fabre Line Club on Allens Avenue. It now occupies the space vacated by the Royal Charter of 1663 at the entrance to the Senate chamber. The sculpture had originally been commissioned for placement in the Heritage Harbor Museum. Historian Laureate Patrick T. Conley and his wife Gail Cahalan Conley, both major donors to the Irish Famine Memorial, gave \$120,000 to the museum to produce this work of art.

The sculpture honors Dorr, a major Rhode Island reformer and champion of equal rights, who led the famous Dorr Rebellion for constitutional reform in 1841-42. During his career, Dorr championed an array of political, economic, and social reforms that have benefitted Rhode Island into the present day.

Once the statue of Dorr was delivered through the efforts of Governor Chafee, Paul F. Caranci, Deputy Secretary of State, and Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed, the State House Restoration Society and others suggested that it should be mounted on a well-designed pedestal. Accordingly, the Rhode Island Publications Society conducted a small fund-raising drive by soliciting two dozen Dorr devotees for money to pay for the proposed pedestal. Now, with the pedestal funded and completed in time for Dorr's birthday, this dedicatory event has been scheduled.

Participants include the Conleys, the pedestal donors, and members of the State House Restoration Society, the Heritage Harbor Museum/Foundation, the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (in which Dorr is an inductee), and the Rhode Island Publications Society, publisher of several books relating to Dorr and his reform efforts.

Dr. Conley will serve as master of ceremonies. Speakers include Deputy Secretary of State Paul Caranci, and Jonathan Stevens, director of the Rhode Island Colonial 1663 Charter Commission, representing Governor Chafee, who had personally welcomed Dorr to the State House last January as the final act of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary Charter observance.

When the Royal Charter was moved to a new state-of-the-art display room on the first floor of the State House, it left the space it long occupied at the entrance to the Senate available for another historical artifact. Conley noted at that time that "it was fitting that Dorr replace the Royal Charter again as he did in 1842."

A collation in the Governor's Reception Room will follow the dedication. At that reception the Conleys will cut a huge birthday cake in honor of Dorr. Its inscription will read "Thomas Wilson Dorr, the People's Governor--Happy Birthday, November 5, 1805--Happy Vindication Day, November 5, 2014."

The members of the participating groups will also receive complimentary copies of the new edition of the full-color, Warren Jagger illustrated book, *The State Houses of Rhode Island* which Conley, an original author (with William McKenzie Woodward and Robert Owen Jones), updated as his contribution to the Charter's 350<sup>th</sup> observance.

**For further information  
contact Patrick T. Conley  
at #273-1787 or #256-8094**

**DORR PEDESTAL DONORS**

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