



Leif Ericson Day

Sunday, October 8, 2023

The **Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc.** in association with the **Leif Ericson Society International**, takes great pleasure in cordially inviting you to attend the annual observances that are held in commemoration of the first European to discover North America over 1000 years ago - **Leif Ericson**.

In **1964**, the U.S. Congress, by joint resolution, declared **October 9th** as Leif Ericson Day. Since then, the Scandinavian community both in the Philadelphia area and all over North America has held that day as a very special occasion.

In the past each year, a featured **Scandinavian** country is chosen, and this year we decided to honor the United States of America instead ... these have been very trying months and our country has prevailed ...

The first segment of our celebration **begins at 11am when we launch our Viking Ship at The Western Launch area of Marsh Creek Lake in Downingtown, PA**. Come and see and greet our replica Viking Ship "**Norseman**" and her crew. At 12 noon, there will be introductions of honored guests, as well as the reading of a proclamation from the President of the United States and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. At the conclusion of this ceremony, a wreath symbolizing the encampment at Vinland, will be dedicated in honor of the life and accomplishments of Leif Ericson. The Viking Ship will then sail until about 2:30pm

Join us at **4:30p.m.** at the annual Leif Ericson Day banquet (reservations required) This year the dinner will be held at the **Hilton Garden Inn, 720 East Eagleview Blvd, Exton, PA** This is a great time to mingle with old friends, enjoy a good meal, listen to words from guest speakers, see our display of Viking artifacts, participate in our silent auction and 50/50 raffle (cash or check only) and hear news of our famous traveling Viking Ship "Norseman".

We hope that you will mark your calendars and plan to attend one or both of our festivities, and bring a friend, a relative or a neighbor. This cultural observance is **open to all nationalities**, as we celebrate the historical fact that "**Leif Landed First**". After another successful event last year, we are very excited to continue with our current venue and location. Please visit our website at www.vikingship.org and our Facebook page "**Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc**" for all details.

*For those needing a GPS address, please use 800 N. Reeds Road, Downingtown, PA