

**RESOLUTION NO. 224 -2010, RENAMING DAM POND
MARITIME RESERVE IN EAST MARION AFTER RUTH D.
OLIVA**

WHEREAS, Ruth D. Oliva, former Southold Town Councilwoman, passed away in June, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oliva became a part of the Southold community in 1970, when her family purchased a home in Orient; and

WHEREAS, during the 1970s, Mrs. Oliva became active in environmental issues, leading a children's ecology workshop during the summer, and serving as President of the North Fork Environmental Council, a position she held for seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mrs. Oliva became a year round resident of Orient and focused her attention on the needs and concerns of the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Oliva provided years of public service to the residents of Southold as a member of the Southold Town Council, and the Deputy Town Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career as an elected official, Mrs. Oliva championed environmental causes, including recycling, farmland and open space preservation; and

WHEREAS, following the end of her career in public office, Mrs. Oliva remained active in the Southold community as a member of the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force and a board member of Community Action in Southold Town (CAST), a local non-profit organization providing services for local people in need; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Mrs. Oliva was appointed to Southold Town's Zoning Board of Appeals and continued serving the residents of Southold until her passing; and

WHEREAS, Dam Pond Maritime Reserve is owned jointly by Suffolk County and the Town of Southold; and

WHEREAS, it would be a fitting tribute to rename Dam Pond Maritime Reserve in honor of Mrs. Oliva's years of tireless work and dedication to environmental causes and the residents of Southold Town and Suffolk County; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 215(1) of the NEW YORK COUNTY LAW, Dam Pond Maritime Reserve shall be renamed and dedicated in honor of Ruth D. Oliva as a tribute for her protection of environmental rights and years of public service in the Town of Southold; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, pursuant to Section C28-4 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate this naming and dedication; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect upon the Town Board of the Town of Southold passing a resolution renaming Dam Pond Maritime Reserve in honor of Ruth D. Oliva; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: March 23, 2010

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: April 8, 2010

Ruth D. Oliva Biography

Ruth Oliva, who died in June 2009, was a longtime community leader and champion of the environment. Born in New Jersey in 1932, Ruth attended Bucknell College, then lived in the Bronx and Queens, New York, before she and her family bought a home in Orient in 1970.

During the 1970s, she became interested and active in environmental issues, working with local residents Paul and Barbara Stoutenberg, and leading an ecology workshop for kids during the summer. She subsequently became president of the North Fork Environmental Council, a position she held for seven years. In 1982, she became a year-round resident in Orient and dedicated even more of her time and attention to the needs and concerns of her community.

Ruth was first elected as a Southold Town councilwoman in 1987. She served a second four-year term on the Town Board when she ran on the bipartisan United Southold slate in 1993, becoming deputy supervisor in the Wickham administration. Over the years, she was particularly focused on such issues as solid waste; environmental pollutants; recycling; traffic; transportation; farmland and open space preservation; and beach erosion. She voluntarily took on the job of town recycling coordinator and organized the STOP program, which facilitated the proper disposal of contaminants.

After she left elective office in 1997, Ruth continued to work in the community in other capacities. She joined the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force in 2001, and served on the board of Community Action in Southold Town (CAST)—a nonprofit organization that provides services for local people in need. Ruth continued to attend virtually all Southold Town Board meetings and, in 2002, she was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, serving as both chairperson and member, a position she held until her death. She was also an active member of the Town's Transportation Commission and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Committee (LWRP) at the time of her death.

Ruth was a devoted gardener and bird watcher and an excellent cook. She and her husband, Eugene, were married for more than 50 years and raised four children. Their five grandchildren visit Orient often.