

Written May 7, 1998

A Tribute to Our Founder
Captain Christopher Leftenant

Although the Breezy Point Yacht Club, of Amityville, New York was officially chartered by the State of New York in 1962. Its real beginnings were actually rooted several years prior. This is a brief history of that period of time, of the founding of the Breezy Point Yacht Club.

In the fifties, a small group of Long Island African American boating and fishing enthusiast had for quite a while enjoyed a camaraderie that such common activities as these can bring people together. They met informally in each other's homes. Sometimes in their garages, when the lady of the house gave a vocal disapproval at the occasional smelly and untidy doings.

One thing that the group deplored most of all, was the many times that they had been rebuffed and disrespected by the boating community-at-large. Commercial and public marinas often rebuffed the black boaters seeking dockage and /or services for their vessels. In a few instances where one of the group was able to gain access to dockage, it was found that he was being overcharged by ten or fifteen dollars per foot more than their Caucasian counterparts.

The group decided to try to find their own waterfront home. It was their only solution to the racist based dilemma they constantly faced. This was a daunting task, but the search went onward. Commercial waterfront land was seemingly unavailable, even at any price. And the group's funds were very, very limited.

After a couple of years or so of serious property hunting, Chris Leftenant came to the rescue. Chris was a longtime member of the group. He also belonged to one of the most highly respected and distinguished families in the Amityville area. Everyone knew the Leftenants and what they stood for in the community. Chris was a very affable businessman with varied interest. He was the owner of the most popular cesspool installation and sanitation service business around. His huge trucks were emblazoned with the slogan, **"If it Gurgles, Call Chris"**.

Chris in his travels, had cultivated a friendship with an older gentleman who lived on a sizeable piece of property at the southern tip of Ketcham Avenue in the Village of Amityville. A longtime acquaintance of Chris, the man knew and understood of the groups' need for waterfront

property. He told Chris that he would sell him and his friends the property for a very fair price. So Chris took the offer back to his fishing and boating buddies. After a little arm twisting, the group decided to pool their meager resources and try to purchase the Ketcham Avenue site. The Lord answered their prayers! They were able to get a mortgage for the purchase and the rest is History!

Thanks to Chris Leftenant, the Breezy Point Yacht club was officially granted a Charter by the State of New York in 1962. Many shoulders, male and female, supported this final push to reality. Chris was the Founder in more ways than one. Chris Found the property. He found the seller and convinced him of the urgency and fairness of the group's mission and he found a way to convince the loosely knit group of friends to coalesce and buy this property.

Thus, Chris and his friends became the distinguished Charter Members of the Breezy Point Yacht Club. Charter Members Captain Robert Davis and Captain Clarence Holloway are still very active and serve as officers in the club. Captain George Jones, another longtime BPYC stalwart, is still an active member.

So Today, we light the farewell lamp on Shipboard to our beloved Founder, Captain Christopher Leftenant. We, the members of the Breezy Point Yacht Club hereby pay tribute to him for serving as our catalyst in securing this gorgeous location for our facility that we call "home" on the Great South Bay"

Dear Lord, Bless Chris and Care for Him Forever More!

Peace and Love,

William Brazier
Member, BPYC

Approved:
Captain Lloyd Gellineau,
Commodore, BPYC