



516 Long Island Day Launches: A New Island-Wide Celebration of Community, Pride, and Local Culture

May 16 Becomes the Official Unofficial Holiday for Long Islanders — One Island. One Toast. One Day to Celebrate

LONG ISLAND, NY, UNITED STATES, May 9, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Every place has its day. But what about Long Island?

For the first time ever, a homegrown initiative is launching to give Long Island the recognition it deserves—from Montauk to Mineola — with the creation of 516 Long Island Day, celebrated annually on May 16 (5/16). It's more than an area code — it's a call to pride.

This island-wide tradition, created by and for Long Islanders, encourages locals to take a moment to celebrate everything that makes Long Island iconic — from its rich history and cultural contributions to its small businesses, resilience, and community strength. The central idea is simple: at 5:16 PM on May 16, Long Islanders everywhere raise a glass — wherever they are — in a collective toast to the Island they call home.

More Than a Celebration — A Statement of Identity

Long Island has long been misunderstood or reduced to pop culture clichés. But anyone who's from here knows better.

"We're the nurses who pulled triple shifts during COVID. The deli guys who reopened the day after Hurricane Irene. The teachers, firefighters, landscapers, and small business owners who make this place run — rain, shine, or nor'easter," said the organizers. "516 Day is about recognizing the people, the stories, and the grit that define Long Island."

This movement is 100% grassroots — no corporate sponsor, no politician behind it — just a group of passionate locals who wanted to create something authentic and lasting.

A Moment for Businesses, a Movement for the People

516 Long Island Day isn't just symbolic — it's strategic. The initiative is designed to drive attention and foot traffic to local businesses, many of whom are still recovering from years of economic challenges.

Participating venues are encouraged (but not required) to offer \$5.16 specials, host neighborhood events, play throwback playlists, or create their own 516-themed offerings. A free downloadable promo kit is available at www.516longislandday.com — with printable flyers, editable social media templates, and instructions for how to get involved.

“It’s not a gimmick. It’s a gesture — to bring Long Islanders together around a shared moment. It’s also a great reason to visit your neighborhood bar, bagel shop, pizzeria, or ice cream parlor and support the local economy.”

Why 516? Why Now?

Before 631, there was only 516. When Long Island first received area codes, 516 was the original — representing the entirety of Nassau and Suffolk County until 1999, when Suffolk split into 631. For many, 516 still symbolizes the soul of Long Island — its roots, grit, attitude, and unity.

And in a time when so many communities feel divided, Long Islanders are reclaiming their identity —proudly, publicly, and loudly.

What’s Happening May 16?

- □ The Island-Wide Toast: At 5:16 PM on 5/16, locals across towns, beaches, patios, restaurants, parks, and front yards will raise a glass to Long Island.
- □ Local Business Specials: From sandwich combos to limited-edition brews and merch, participating venues are putting their own spin on 516 pride.
- □ Community Content: Social media is lighting up with the #516Day hashtag as locals tag @516longislandday and share their own stories, shoutouts, and memories.
- □ Neighborhood Vibes: Many towns are embracing the energy by playing local music, hosting mini-events, and displaying 516 flyers in windows and on menus.

“This is about togetherness. It’s about that feeling of belonging to somewhere specific, real, and strong. It’s about loving where you’re from — or where you still call home.”

A Legacy of Innovation & Culture

Long Island isn’t just bagels and beaches — it’s innovation, history, and culture. From Charles Lindbergh’s historic flight at Roosevelt Field to Grumman’s lunar module built in Bethpage, from

Mariah Carey and Billy Joel to Walt Whitman and Ralph Baer, Long Island has helped shape the nation’s story.

And now, 516 Long Island Day becomes a new chapter — a day to reflect on what they’ve given to the world, and what they give to each other.

Get Involved

- □ Locals: Celebrate at home, at work, or at the favorite neighborhood spot. Just raise a glass at 5:16 PM on May 16, post using #516Day, and show love for the 516.

□ □ Businesses: Visit www.516longislandday.com to download a promo kit, add a venue to the list, and start getting the word out.

□ □ Everyone: Follow the movement on Instagram & Facebook: @516longislandday

This Is Not a Holiday. It's a Homecoming.

516 Long Island Day is not sponsored, not political, and not profit-driven. It's something more meaningful — a collective moment of appreciation, remembrance, and celebration. Whether it's in Freeport or Farmingdale, Wantagh or Westbury, May 16 is everyone's.

So mark it. Share it. Wear it. Live it. May 16. 516 Long Island Day. Strong & Proud.

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info@516day.com

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