Introducing Port-Vendres Mayor Georges Grau
October 5, 2012
Port-Vendres

Students from high school ..... 

We are delighted to welcome all of you to PORT-VENDRES as one of our strong twin SISTERS CITIES ceremonies.

This building belonged to Jules PAMS born in 1852 and dead in 1930 an important and well known politician who missed just one vote to be elected as President of the Republic. It was a long time ago in 1913.

He gave this building to the city so that it becomes forever the CITY HALL.

Here you are in the room used to celebrating marriages.

Paintings are of the famous Dutch painter GERVAIS.

We hope each of you feels quite fit in spite of your many visits and after your long flight about nine hours since the USA.

We hope you will enjoy the different historic activities planned for you today after you got a little tour of the harbour.

We want to thank very sincerely Antoinette QUINTILLA and Annie DE CRUZ for their strong help with their Association called PORT-VENDRES FIRST.

It’s really comforting to rely on their work.

One of you told me he wants to give Antoinette a big surprise, a gift coming straight from VIRGINIA.

So we are eager to discover the deserved reward offered to our dear friend ANTOINETTE and we are very happy for her and SIMONE her deceased sister

But I think we must wait for a short time because the MAYOR Jean-Pierre ROMERO is going to speak to the audience but in French only.

Long life to our friendship.
Speech by Georges Grau to the Yorktown Delegation  
October 5, 2012  
Port-Vendres

Ladies and gentlemen;  
The principal of Céret High School;  
All the teachers representing Céret and Yorktown high schools;  
Dear students, dear friends

“What you have received from your ancestors, you must own to possess.” This quote from Goethe brings to mind the solid ties supported by 22 years of effort on the part of Port-Vendres and Yorktown, ties begun at the signing of the sister city charter signed July 13, 1990 in presence of our own Jacques Vila.

I think as well of the historic heritage that unites our towns.

Today, I am proud to welcome a high school delegation from our sister city in the state of Virginia in continuation of the friendship between our respective cultures.

Today’s agenda will focus on the cultural and maritime heritage of the “City of Venus” (Port-Vendres) and offer the occasion to discover the history of the Obelisk where a bas relief is consecrated to the independence of America. Afterwards, we will walk together in the path of Charles Rennie Mackintosh with a visit to the museum dedicated to this Scottish artist.

After lunch, a guided visit to the site of Paulilles, the old Nobel dynamite factory and the workshops where traditional Catalan boats are restored will immerse us into the history of our town at the beginning of the 20th century.

Before sharing a toast of friendship, I leave to the delegate from Yorktown high schools, the presentation of a medal, designed by an American jeweler, and commissioned by our sister city, in thanks to Antoinette Quintilla, president of the Association Port-Vendres d’Abord. And for her selfless investment of time and effort accomplished with enthusiasm. I sincerely thank and congratulate her.

So that we may continue to say “Per Molts Anys” (For Many Years….)