

1 WHEREAS, today the American Merchant Marine continues
2 a long tradition of essential service to the American economy and
3 defense; and

4 WHEREAS, throughout our history, American ships have
5 contributed to the development of our modern economy, as well as
6 to the strength and unity of the country; and

7 WHEREAS, this Nation's economy continues to expand, we
8 will continue to need ships-- fast, modern descendants of the
9 famous "Clippers"-- to carry our products to the far corners of the
10 earth and return with the raw materials essential to our national
11 prosperity; and

12 WHEREAS, our merchant marine is also vital to our friends
13 all over the world. The transportation of surplus commodities to
14 many of the underdeveloped countries is an important part of our
15 foreign aid program; and

16 WHEREAS, for as long as the United States may be called
17 upon to defend the Free World's interests anywhere on the globe,
18 our ships are necessary to insure continuous supply of the military
19 material that helps to prevent or defeat aggression by any country
20 and the complex task of creating and maintaining a merchant marine
21 adequate to our needs for peacetime commerce, and sufficient for
22 defense purposes, requires the efforts of government, management
23 and labor and the support of all Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, to remind the American people of the important
25 role of the American Merchant Marine in the life of this Nation, the
26 Congress in 1933 designated May 22 of each year as National
27 Maritime Day and requested the President to issue a proclamation
28 annually in observance of that day. May 22, 1819, is the day
29 the SS SAVANNAH, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, set
30 forth on its historic journey into the future and since May 22 falls
31 on Sunday this year, it is appropriate that the day be observed on
32 the following Monday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Oran K. Gragson, Mayor of the City
of Las Vegas, do hereby proclaim May 23 as American Merchant
Marine Day in Las Vegas, and urge the citizens of this City to take
recognition by displaying the flag of the United States at their
homes and other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
caused the seal of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, to be affixed
this twenty-seventh day of April, 1966.

ORAN K. GRAGSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk



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