

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The American Merchant Marine must project the Nation's economic strength throughout the world in peacetime and give mobility to our national defense in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Through the cooperation of business, labor, and government, and with prudent use of technology, the American Merchant Marine must become capable of providing modern, productive service to the Nation's commerce as an integral part of transportation; and

WHEREAS, A strong and profitable merchant fleet is vital to America's economic welfare and defense capability, and the American flag on merchant vessels on the high seas and in foreign ports is a symbol of our Nation's dedication to peaceful trade throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The restoration of our merchant fleet to a position of leadership on the world's oceans is one of our most urgent tasks, and our merchant ships are essential parts of our economic and defense systems, and reminders to us and to the world of our heritage as a sea-going people; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the importance of our Merchant Marine to our economy and our national security, the Congress of the United States in 1933 set aside May 22 of each year as National Maritime Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for the observance of that day; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that the citizens of this community join in observance and recognition of the importance to our well-being of the American Merchant Marine

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ORAN K. GRAGSON, Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, do hereby declare May 22 1970, as

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE DAY

in the City of Las Vegas, and I do hereby urge our citizens to honor our American Merchant Marine by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and places of business.

Dated This May 1, 1970, at the City of Las Vegas, Nevada

ORAN K. GRAGSON
Mayor



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