



USMMA KP Alumni - Chapter Presidents Alliance, Inc.

Greetings Fellow Chapter Presidents -

Thank you to all Chapters for your Mission Support, with your events commemorating National Maritime Day. National Maritime Day is May 22, 2010. The Presidential Proclamation is released - annually - no sooner than one day prior to May 22.

In consideration of those Chapters who are hosting or participating in commemoration events prior to May 22, 2010,

I have attached the following for use in your program presentation:

IMO Proclamation for US National Maritime Day 052210.pdf
Presidential Proclamation 2009 NMD Obama 052209.doc <2009!>

Fraternally,

Gary

Gary G. Hicks '76
 Chairman

USMMA KP Alumni - Chapter Presidents Alliance, Inc.

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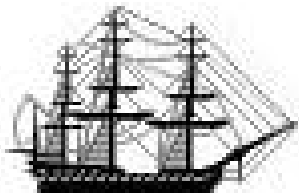
A Short History on National Maritime Day

Background: The Voyage of the SS Savannah

On May 22, 1819, the S.S. *Savannah* left its home port of Savannah, Georgia, on its way to Liverpool, England. The ship "put to sea with steam and sails" and reached Liverpool, England, in 29 days and four hours, becoming the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

While the steam engine performed faultlessly, it was not the only means of propulsion; historians have estimated that the *Savannah* was under sail 80% of the time.

Nonetheless, it was an impressive achievement, one that signaled the beginning of the era of steam, and American technological leadership.



1933: Congress Declares May 22 to be National Maritime Day

By a Joint Resolution passed on May 20, 1933, Congress declared May 22nd to be National Maritime Day. This is the text of the resolution.

Whereas on May 22, 1819, the steamship *The Savannah* set sail from Savannah, Georgia, on the first successful transoceanic voyage under steam propulsion, thus making a material contribution to the advancement of ocean transportation:

Therefore be it **Resolved** by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That May 22 of each year shall hereafter be designated and known as National Maritime Day, and the President is authorized and requested annually to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such National Maritime Day by displaying the flag at their homes or other suitable places and Government officials to display the flag on all Government buildings on May 22 of each year.

National Maritime Day has been declared a Day of Remembrance and Prayer for Mariners and People of the Sea by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This Day of Remembrance and Prayer was Observed nationwide for the first time on May 22nd, 2007.

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