

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY, 1961

**By the President of the United States
of America**

April 5, 1961
[No. 3403]

A Proclamation

WHEREAS the American Merchant Marine is a major factor in maintaining the economy of the Nation through serving the peacetime commerce of the United States; and

WHEREAS American-flag shipping is essential to the defense of this and other nations of the free world and to the cause of freedom on every continent; and

WHEREAS American merchant ships and the men who sail them implement our national policy of providing food and supplies to the famished and stricken of the world when the need arises; and

WHEREAS the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933 (48 Stat. 73), designated May 22 as National Maritime Day, in commemoration of the departure from Savannah, Georgia, on May 22, 1819, of the S.S. *Savannah* on the first transoceanic voyage by any steamship, and requested the President to issue a proclamation annually calling for the observance of that day; and

36 USC 145.

WHEREAS the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, named the N.S. *Savannah* in honor of the first *Savannah*, will put to sea this year, demonstrating for all peoples the intention of this Nation to use atomic power for peaceful purposes:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the people of the United States to honor our Merchant Marine on Monday, May 22, 1961, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes or other suitable places; and I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag on all Government buildings on that day.

I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on

the twenty-second day of May in tribute to the American Merchant Marine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this fifth day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-one, [SEAL] and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the President:

DEAN RUSK,
Secretary of State.

CITIZENSHIP DAY AND CONSTITUTION WEEK, 1961

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

WHEREAS the growth of our Nation and the safeguarding of its principles of liberty, justice, and opportunity rest upon the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS it is most fitting in these crucial times that all citizens, naturalized and native-born, pledge themselves anew to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and to rededicate themselves to the service of our country; and

WHEREAS by a joint resolution approved February 29, 1952 (66 Stat. 9), the Congress designated the seventeenth day of September of each year as Citizenship Day in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and in recognition of those citizens who have come of age and those who have been naturalized during the year; and

WHEREAS by a joint resolution approved August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 932), the

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36 USC 153.

36 USC 159.