

from Savannah, Georgia, on that date in 1819 of the SS SAVANNAH on the first transatlantic voyage by any steamship, and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance.

Because May 22 falls on Sunday this year, and in keeping with custom, it is appropriate to observe National Maritime Day on the following Monday.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the people of the United States to honor our American Merchant Marine on May 23, 1977, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4503

April 21, 1977

Mother's Day, 1977

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Recent shifts in our culture and society have created new patterns of life for many American mothers and families.

Some of these changes have been desirable, and some not so desirable. But all have put new burdens on the women who must adapt to the shifts—the mothers of America.

By and large they have met the challenge of change with grace, intelligence, and dignity.

Mother's Day should no longer be merely a day on which we reaffirm our love for our mothers. It should also be an occasion for admiration of the way American mothers have maintained those family bonds that protect us from the uncertainties of a changing society and give meaning and direction to our lives.

And it should be an occasion for those of us in public life to reflect on what government can do to help the mothers of America keep our families strong.

36 USC 142.

In recognition of the contributions of all mothers to their families and to the Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), designated the second Sunday in May each year as Mother's Day and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby request that Sunday, May 8, 1977, be observed as Mother's Day.

I call upon government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings, and I urge all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4504

April 25, 1977

**Prayer for Peace
Memorial Day, May 30, 1977**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The greatest honor we can pay those who have given their lives in our Nation's defense is to serve the ideals for which they died.

We properly honor these men and women on Memorial Day—as we honor those who fought and lived, to continue the struggle for peace, freedom, justice, and human rights.

Those of us who survived the battle, or who never had to bear it, must work to assure that no American will ever be asked to offer up his or her life in war unless the survival of our Nation or of democracy itself is at stake.

Let us remember on Memorial Day those who have lived and died in pursuit of a just peace. Let us pray that, like them, we will leave behind us a stronger Nation and a better world.

In tribute to those Americans who have died for their country, and to those who survived to carry on their unfinished work, the Congress, by joint resolution of May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the American people to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 1977, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11 o'clock in the morning of that day as a time to unite in prayer.

I urge the press, radio, television, and all other information media to join in this observance.

I call upon the appropriate officials of all levels of government to fly the flag at half-staff until noon during Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the same customary forenoon period.