

Armed Services Committee for 14 years. Carl Vinson played a major role in developing a national defense posture second to none, believing always in a philosophy that "No man should ever place the defense of his nation below any other priority."

Carl Vinson's record of over 50 years of continuous service in the House of Representatives remains unsurpassed, reflecting a lifelong commitment to the security and freedom of all Americans. He served his country with distinction, providing enlightened leadership, and demonstrating an incomparable ability as a legislator.

On March 15, 1980 Carl Vinson will be present in Newport News, Virginia, as the first living American to be present at the launching of a United States Navy warship which bears his name. In recognition of this unique occasion, and in honor of this great American, the 96th Congress, by joint resolution (S.J. Res. 149), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation honoring Carl Vinson.

Ante, p. 93.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby extend best wishes to Carl Vinson on this historic occasion, and express deep appreciation on behalf of the United States to Carl Vinson and his unswerving devotion to his beloved nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4736 of March 13, 1980

National Maritime Day, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout the history of the United States, trade and shipping have made a vital contribution to the Nation's growth and economic vitality. Today, the American Merchant Marine continues to aid the development of American enterprise and to foster the well-being of all American citizens by linking U.S. industries, farms and markets with our overseas trading partners.

In addition, our Merchant Marine has shown valor and dedication in providing logistic support to United States military forces in times of national emergency.

In recognition of the importance of the American Merchant Marine, and in commemoration of the departure from Savannah, Georgia, on May 22, 1819, of the S.S. Savannah on the first transatlantic voyage by any steamship, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution of May 20, 1933 (48 Stat. 73, 36 U.S.C. 145), designated May 22 of each year as National Maritime Day and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for appropriate observances.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do urge the people of the United States to honor our American Merchant Marine on May 22, 1980, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I call upon all ships under the American flag to dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4737 of March 18, 1980

National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout the history of the United States, our progress as a Nation has been closely tied to our progress in transportation.

As the Nation grew, so did its need for mobility. In the last century this need was well served by expanding networks of railroads and canals. Today, the need is served by a broader range of systems, including motor vehicles and aircraft.

The generations of men and women who pioneered these systems stand high in the ranks of those who made America great.

But new demands are constantly being made on our capacity to move people and the goods they produce. Today's systems must change if they are to handle the demographic changes and the energy problems of tomorrow.

Once again we look to the people in our transportation industry to innovate—and to provide rapid, dependable, safe and efficient transportation to meet the needs of the future.

Acknowledging the importance of the U.S. transportation system, the Congress by joint resolution of May 16, 1957 (71 Stat. 30, 36 U.S.C. 160), requested the President to proclaim the third Friday in May of each year as National Defense Transportation Day, and, by joint resolution of May 14, 1962 (76 Stat. 69, 36 U.S.C. 166), requested the President to proclaim the week on which that Friday falls as National Transportation Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Friday, May 16, 1980, as National Defense Transportation Day, and the week beginning May 11, 1980, as National Transportation Week.

I urge all Governors, appropriate Federal officials, transportation organizations, and the people of the United States to join with the U.S. Department