



NATIONAL MARITIME DAY



Congratulations! As a credentialed mariner, you are part of a proud legacy of Merchant Mariners who dedicated their lives to the maritime industry and this great nation.

On the 22nd of May, the Nation makes a special effort to honor you, an American Merchant Mariner. National Maritime Day highlights your legacy. It is a day of recognition established by Congress in 1933 to honor the individual mariner and the entire maritime industry.

We pay tribute to the U.S. Merchant Marine who took up arms alongside the Continental Navy to help defeat the British Navy during the American Revolution. Since then, they have served bravely as the United States has faced threats ranging from war to piracy, and our seafaring fleet has proven instrumental in protecting our safety. In times of conflict and crisis, the Armed Forces rely on the Merchant Marine's sealift capability to transport critical equipment and supplies. Time and again, mariners have demonstrated their willingness and ability to meet daunting challenges.

In today's global economy, we rely on Merchant Mariners to maintain our nation's economic prosperity, keep our ports and waterways safe and secure, and to protect our maritime environment.

Today, the men and women of the National Maritime Center commemorate the entire maritime industry and the more than 2.5 million citizens who have proudly earned the title of Merchant Mariner for contributing to the long and proud history of the Merchant Marine and the United States of America.

PRESENTED THIS 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2014

Jeffrey P. Novotny
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard