

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout American history, the Merchant Marine has been indispensable to our security and prosperity, and

WHEREAS, today, our merchant fleet binds Americas through our best of Duluth to selected commerce with the increasing interdependent nations of the world, and

WHEREAS, in this decade alone, our imports and exports have risen nearly 60 percent -- from less than \$35 billion in 1961 to nearly \$55 billion in 1969, and

WHEREAS, merchant ships carry the necessities of life to millions in need and transport military supplies and equipment to our forces abroad, and

WHEREAS, ninety-eight percent of all our supplies being sent to Vietnam today are carried by ship, and

WHEREAS, we remind Americans of the important role which the merchant marine plays in our national life, the Congress in 1939 designated the anniversary of the first transatlantic voyage by a steamer, the SS Savannah, on May 20, 1819, as National Maritime Day, and requested the President to issue a proclamation annually in observance of that day,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Harold Leander, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim May 20, 1969, as

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

in Minnesota, and do hereby urge the people of Minnesota to honor our American Merchant Marine on that day by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this nineteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine, and of the State, the one hundred eleventh.

*Harold Leander*  
GOVERNOR

*Joseph J. ...*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED  
APR 24 1969  
*Joseph J. ...*  
Secretary of State