



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the seas lanes of the world have served as gateways for commerce and cultural exchange from the earliest times in our history; and
- WHEREAS, with merchants and seamen of our young republic playing a pivotal role in the development of a stable economy and a prosperous future for all Americans; and
- WHEREAS, in time of war and peace, the American Merchant Marine has been dedicated to the orderly flow of goods and materials to and from the shores of our nation; and
- WHEREAS, May 22, 1819 marks the day that the S.S. SAVANNAH sailed from Savannah, Georgia for Liverpool, England on the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by a ship using steam propulsion; and
- WHEREAS, each year on this day, men and women from all our United States currently serving in the American Merchant Marine are honored, along with those who served with such dedication and valor and those many seamen who lost their lives in our wars and conflict.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
May 22, 2012 as

Maritime Day

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 15th day of May 2012.

Craig Cates, MAYOR