



## 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 22nd, 2017 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017.

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Craig Cates, MAYOR