



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 designated the United States Merchant Marine as a "naval or military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency," and created the United States Maritime Service as its official training organization; and

WHEREAS: From 1938 to 1954, the United States Maritime Service operated four basic training bases to provide training for seamanship, weapons, officer candidate, and other specializations, and utilized ten training vessels to retrain more than 200,000 men, recruited at 37 offices throughout the country; and

WHEREAS: In 1941 and 1942, thousands of Mariners were killed in the North Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea; and

WHEREAS: During World War II, the United States Merchant Marine had the greatest casualty rate of any service: 731 vessels sunk; 31 ships and crews lost; an estimated 67,995 Mariners killed; and more than 600 taken as prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS: In 1988, the wounded men of the United States Merchant Marine were finally recognized as veterans; and

WHEREAS: These Merchant Marines, by their patriotic service, have earned the gratitude of the citizens of our great state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim
Wednesday, May 22, 2013, as:

MARITIME DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



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 16th day of May.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE