and inform Americans about the benefits of trade to our Nation and the
global economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day
of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independ-
ence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8678 of May 18, 2011

National Maritime Day, 2011

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

In times of peace or war, the civilians serving in the United States Mer-
chant Marine have helped keep our Nation safe and prosperous. We de-
pend on these men and women serving on our ships and tugs, in our ports
and shipyards, close to home or far at sea, to connect businesses, service
members, and citizens around the world. On National Maritime Day, we
honor their invaluable contributions to America’s economic strength and
security.

On May 22, 1819, the SS Savannah completed the first successful voyage
by a steam powered ship across the Atlantic, shepherding in a new age of
maritime travel and transport. By the 20th century, the United States mari-
time trade was booming, fostering exchanges across the world and aiding
our military at war. During World War II, Merchant Marines were critical
in providing necessary supplies and services to troops abroad, while suf-
ferring an extraordinarily high death rate. Hundreds of merchant ships fell
to enemy action, and nearly one in thirty mariners did not return home.

United States flag vessels and those who operate them continue to be an
integral part of our military operations overseas. They support operations
in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as humanitarian aid missions and disaster
relief efforts. Without the steadfast commitment of our mariners, our Nation
would not be as prepared to deal with unforeseen events, conflicts, or cri-
ses. Their bravery and valor make our waterways safer and more efficient
every day.

Today, our maritime industry is a valuable source of skilled employment
for American workers, contributing billions of dollars to our economy. It
is also a critical part of our transportation system. Last year, my Adminis-
tration implemented “America’s Marine Highway Program,” an effort that
enables American businesses to participate in improving the safety and en-
vironmental sustainability of our waterways. Our mariners’ continued work
is helping American industry remain competitive in the global economy,
pushing us toward a more prosperous and free 21st century.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated
May 22 of each year as “National Maritime Day,” and has authorized and
requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its ap-
propriate observance.
Proclamations

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2011, as National Maritime Day. I call upon the people of the United States to mark this observance and to display the flag of the United States at their homes and in their communities. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8679 of May 20, 2011

National Hurricane Preparedness Week, 2011

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

National Hurricane Preparedness Week highlights the importance of planning ahead to protect our families and secure our communities and homes in advance of the upcoming hurricane season.

Hurricanes are powerful storms that can create severe flooding, dangerous storm surges, high winds, and tornadoes. The effects of these storms can be devastating to entire communities and can have long-lasting consequences, including loss of life and property. In addition to threatening coastal areas, hurricanes significantly impact inland locations. Our Nation has seen devastating hurricanes and storms, and we must not let our guard down as we prepare for this year’s hurricane season. With tens of millions of Americans living in coastal communities, preparation can enhance our ability to respond to and recover from any natural disaster we might face.

Our Nation’s weather forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Hurricane Center continue to improve the accuracy of their hurricane forecasts. However, we cannot prevent a hurricane from making landfall, and awareness of the threat is not enough—we must translate this knowledge into action, and work together to develop prepared and resilient communities. My Administration recognizes that we must move from a government-centric approach to disaster management to a community-oriented approach that includes all levels of government, the private sector, volunteers, community and faith-based organizations, and the public. A whole community effort is needed to effectively prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against any disaster.

During National Hurricane Preparedness Week, we emphasize the need for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and families to prepare emergency plans, create emergency supply kits, and learn evacuation routes. More information on hurricane hazards and details on how to secure buildings and belongings is available at www.Hurricanes.gov/Prepare and www.Ready.gov.