

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by Congressman Michael Michaud on National Maritime Day

Today, I am proud to join my many colleagues here in the Congress as well as President Bush in recognizing the importance of the United States Merchant Marine. Congress, by Joint Resolution, first declared May 22 as National Maritime Day back in 1933, and today the importance of recognizing their contributions to our nation's security and economy are as important as ever.

Representing a coastal district in Maine, I know first hand the dedication of our nation's merchant mariners. I am extremely proud that many of these fine individuals learn their trade in Maine's Second Congressional District at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine.

With so many of our Armed Forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is the United States Merchant Marine who provides them with critical supplies, equipment and personnel. I know I join the people of Maine and this great nation in honoring their sacrifice to protect freedom and support democracy here and abroad.

Similarly, it is the United States Merchant Marine who serves as the critical link between businesses here at home and customers worldwide. Away from home for months at a time, our merchant mariners provide the much needed manpower and skills to keep our economy running.

Today, I was proud to reaffirm the appreciation of Congress for the fine work undertaken by the United States Merchant Marine.

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