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May 8, 2025

VIA EMAIL: sgagewatts@caddo.org

Honorable Stormy Gage-Watts
President, Caddo Parish Commission
505 Travis Street, Suite 110
Shreveport, LA 71101

RE: National Maritime Day – May 22, 2025

Dear President Gage-Watts:

On May 12, 2025, the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission (the "Port Commission") will recognize National Maritime Day at our monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners. During the past several years, the four appointing authorities of the Port Commission have recognized this holiday. We are hopeful the Caddo Parish Commission will join us in recognizing this important date in maritime history.

National Maritime Day honors the contributions of the American Merchant Marines who have defended the freedom of the United States since 1775. Observance of National Maritime Day also honors the maritime industry and the benefits it brings Americans in terms of transportation, jobs, goods, and recreational opportunities.

National Maritime Day is observed on May 22nd, the date the American steamship *Savannah* sailed from the United States to England. This event marked the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean using steam propulsion. On May 20, 1933, Congress declared May 22nd as National Maritime Day. During World War II in what became the world's largest sealift operation, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marines served their country. Over 6,700 lost their lives; hundreds were detained as prisoners of war; and in excess of 800 ships were sunk or damaged.

This year, in observance of National Maritime Day, the Port Commission's maritime flags will be flown on the yardarm flagpole at its Regional Commerce Center. Also, we have asked Romph and Pou to fully promote the observance with our local media partners to communicate the importance of the maritime industry to our area citizens.

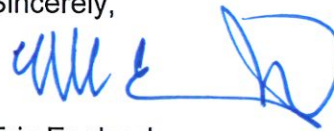
At your convenience, would you please review the attached draft resolution and consider placing it on your earliest agenda for adoption?

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

MEMBERS: Joshua K. Williams, President; Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.), Vice President; James D. Hall, Secretary Treasurer;
Walter O. Bigby Jr.; Erica R. Bryant; Brian Crawford; Sam N. Gregorio; Roy Griggs; Rick C. Prescott

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eric England
Executive Port Director

Attachment

CC: VIA EMAIL:

Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission:

Commissioner Joshua K. Williams, President

Commissioner Stephen V. Callaway, Vice President

Commissioner James D. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer

Commissioner Erica R. Bryant, Caddo Appointee

Mr. Ed Walsh and Ms. Hillary George, Romph & Pou, Public Relations

Ms. Erica R. Bryant; Parish Administrator

Mr. Jeff Everson; Commission Clerk