

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE BROWNSVILLE NAVIGATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF CANAL COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING THE MANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL U.S. MERCHANT MARINERS, PAST AND  
PRESENT, AND PROCLAIMING MAY 22, 2020 AS  
“NATIONAL MARITIME DAY”**

**WHEREAS**, in peace and in conflict, seafarers and ocean vessels have held a special place in our Nation’s history; and

**WHEREAS**, we as people and as a Nation owe a debt of gratitude to those seafarers who have served us; and

**WHEREAS**, this Nation continues to benefit from the dedication, loyalty and work of maritime professionals; and

**WHEREAS**; the citizens of Cameron County, Texas and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas have garnered significant economic employment benefit from the Port of Brownsville and the maritime industry, and

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 1819, the American steam vessel *S.S. Savannah* sailed from Savannah, Georgia to Liverpool, England, commencing the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean using steam propulsion, and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the importance and contributions of the maritime industry, by a joint Congressional resolution passed 1933 designated May 22<sup>nd</sup> as National Maritime Day; and

**WHEREAS**, during World War II, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marines served their country, with more than 9,750 giving their lives, hundreds being detained as prisoners of war, and more than 800 ships being sunk or damaged while providing a wide range of supplies to the troops.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Brownsville Navigation District Board of Canal Commissioners that May 22, 2020 is hereby designated, recognized and set aside as “National Maritime Day”, and the citizens of Cameron County and the Rio Grande Valley, Texas celebrate the many contributions of all U.S. Merchant Marines, past and present, in the advancement of commerce, industry and job creation. WE SALUTE YOU!

**PROCLAIMED** on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.



John Reed  
Chairman



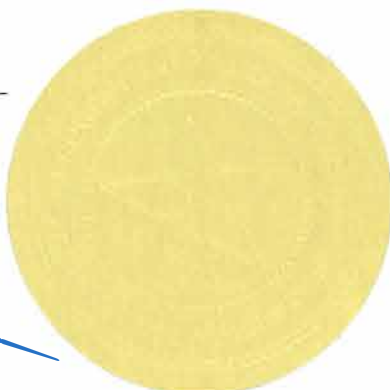
Sergio Tito Lopez  
Vice Chairman



Ralph Cowen  
Secretary



John Wood  
Commissioner



Esteban Guerra  
Commissioner