

Senate Resolution No. 1745

BY: Senator FERNANDEZ

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 22, 2026, as Maritime Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Maritime Day

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 22, 2026, as Maritime Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Maritime Day; and

WHEREAS, On May 20, 1933, the United States Congress designated May 22nd of each year as National Maritime Day; and

WHEREAS, Waterways have greatly contributed to expanding America's economy, developing cities near waterways and facilitating vast domestic and international commerce crucial to our economy today; and

WHEREAS, Merchant Mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, especially at critical moments of war and natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, The United States Merchant Marines and other workers in our Nation's maritime industry continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful world; and

WHEREAS, The United States Merchant Marines also shepherd the safe passage of goods, move exports to customers around the world, support the flow of domestic commerce on our maritime highways, strengthen our Nation's and State's economies, bolster job creation, and, along with the transportation industry, employ New Yorkers on ships and tugboats and in ports; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is proud to educate and train the next generation of Merchant Mariners for the global maritime industry at SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, New York, the oldest institution of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Following authorization by the New York State Legislature, the New York City Board of Education established a nautical school to train students in the science of navigation and the practical duties of mariners; Governor John A. Dix secured the St. Mary's from the United States Navy to serve as the school's first training vessel; and

WHEREAS, The Sloop-of-War St. Mary's, originally launched on November 24, 1844, and was commissioned into the United States Navy; it completed a distinguished career in naval service before beginning a new chapter in maritime education as the New York Nautical School's first training ship and first in the nation school dedicated to training American mariners; and

WHEREAS, On December 10, 1874, St. Mary's entered New York Harbor under the leadership of Captain Stephen B. Luce, United States Navy, marking the founding of the New York Nautical School-now known as the State University of New York Maritime College; and

WHEREAS, From the arrival of the first twenty-six cadets on January 11, 1875, to the present day aboard the Training Ship Empire State VII, generations of Cadets have continued the proud 151-year tradition of education at sea, preparing to serve the United States as highly skilled Merchant Mariners and leaders in the global maritime industry; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York wishes to honor the Merchant Mariners who have served and continue to serve with distinction, the entire maritime industry, new and old, and all those who support them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pauses in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 22, 2026, as Maritime Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Maritime Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.