



# American Merchant Marine Veterans

*Serving America in Peace and War*

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, May 23, 2024

## **Honoring Fallen U.S. Merchant Marine Shipmates on Memorial Day 2024**

WASHINGTON DC – Members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) organization will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2024. This respectful event will be the second time in U.S. history that AMMV has been invited to the wreath laying ceremony. AMMV, represented by Dennis Ng, will honor all U.S. Merchant Marine officers and crewmates who were killed in action or missing at sea while supporting U.S. military sealift operations in hostile enemy situations around the globe.

The American Merchant Marine Veterans is a not for profit organization serving all U.S. Merchant Marine veterans since 1984. The organization and its members are proud to be included in President Joe Biden's traditional wreath laying ceremony on Memorial Day along with distinguished members of the President's cabinet and the U.S. military.

The solemn wreath presentation ceremony recognizes the courage and sacrifice of U.S. Merchant Mariners who were a major part of the Allies' victory during World War II and other major military operations, as they maintained vital supply lines to all theaters of war. During WWII, more than 9,500 U.S. Merchant Mariners were either killed in action or missing at sea. Their losses were the highest ratio of casualties to members of a service, totaling about 4% of those who served, for all U.S. services during the war. Honoring the memory of fallen or missing U.S. Merchant Mariners is what Memorial Day is all about.

Later in the afternoon, the National Memorial Day Parade on Constitution Avenue in our Nation's capital will feature a float sponsored by the U-Haul company. There will be U.S. Merchant Marine veterans onboard from the Kings Point Club of Washington, DC lead by Steven Blust. Members of the Kings Point Club are graduates of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point NY, and they are veterans of U.S. military sealift and commercial maritime operations around the world. They will pay homage to their fallen brothers and sisters during the parade that is coordinated by the American Veterans Center. The U.S. Merchant Marine participation in the parade calls attention to the true meanings of Memorial Day – honoring our fallen heroes and reminding Americans about the price of our freedom.

Dennis Ng, AMMV Regional Vice President for New Jersey and Pennsylvania, said *All Americans should salute fallen U.S. Merchant Mariners, including more than 9,500 Merchant Marine officers and crew members killed in action or missing at sea during World War II, who served in U.S. military*

*sealift operations. Laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day and participating in the National Memorial Day Parade are fitting tributes for our Nation to honor thousands of U.S. Merchant Marine veterans who gave their lives during military conflicts. We also honor their surviving families and their loved ones, as our Nation remembers our fallen service members.”* Mr. Ng is available for advance interviews.

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