



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
American Merchant Marine Veterans
Serving America in Peace and War

American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) has voted at our 31st annual National Convention on March 29th, 2017, to support the following Resolution. This Resolution was introduced by Capt. Christopher J. Edyvean of AMMV's Midwest Chapter.

Support of Sanctuary Expansion on East Coast of U.S.

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is recognized as the lead governmental agency overseeing national marine sanctuaries which serve to protect historic shipwrecks, maritime heritage resources, and related artifacts.

Whereas for over forty years, NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) has protected and interpreted the wreck site of the Civil War Ironclad *U.S.S. Monitor* as a National Historic Landmark and as the nation's first Marine Sanctuary.

Whereas NOAA is considering an expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (located near North Carolina's Outer Banks) to include portions of the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" – an area encompassing the wreckage of nearly 100 WWII merchant ships including six U.S. military vessels.

Whereas the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization (AMMV) supports the desire to preserve the gravesites of our many fallen WWII Merchant Mariners who perished in these waters.

Whereas AMMV supports NOAA's goal to protect, manage, and interpret additional historic shipwrecks and other potential maritime heritage resources within an expanded MNMS boundary that are located or believed to be located in the area known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic".

Therefore, at this 31st annual National Convention of the American Merchant Marine Veterans on March 29th, 2017, it is resolved that AMMV as an organization support the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in regards to their proposed sanctuary expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. In supporting this effort, AMMV encourages NOAA to move swiftly to expand the Sanctuary and protect these additional historic shipwrecks.

Captain Christopher J. Edyvean
AMMV National President