

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 109

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the services and sacrifices of the United
States merchant marine.

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Whereas throughout our history, the United States merchant marine has served the Nation during times of war;

Whereas the merchant marine served as the Nation's first navy, and defeated the British Navy to help gain the Nation's independence;

Whereas during World War II more than 250,000 men and women served in the merchant marine, and faced dangers

from the elements, and from mines, submarines, other armed enemy vessels, and aircraft;

Whereas during World War II vessels of the merchant marine fleet, such as the S.S. Lane Victory, provided critical logistical support to the Armed Forces by carrying equipment, supplies, and personnel necessary to the war effort;

Whereas President Franklin D. Roosevelt and many military leaders praised the role of the merchant marine as the “Fourth Arm of Defense” during World War II;

Whereas during World War II more than 6,800 members of the merchant marine were killed at sea, more than 11,000 were wounded, and more than 600 were taken prisoner;

Whereas 1 out of every 32 members of the merchant marine serving during World War II died in the line of duty, a higher percentage of war related deaths than in any of the armed services;

Whereas, at a time when the people of the United States are recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel to the national security, it is appropriate to recognize the service of the merchant marine; and

Whereas the merchant marine continues to serve and protect the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) honors the service and sacrifice of members
4 of the United States merchant marine;

1 (2) recognizes the critical role played by vessels
2 of the United States merchant marine fleet in trans-
3 porting equipment, supplies, and personnel in sup-
4 port of the Nation's defense;

5 (3) recognizes the historical significance of May
6 22 as National Maritime Day, so designated in 1933
7 to commemorate the anniversary of the first trans-
8 oceanic voyage under steam propulsion, and finds it
9 fitting and proper on this day of paying tribute to
10 our maritime history to pay special honor to the
11 merchant marine;

12 (4) encourages the American people and appro-
13 priate government agencies, through appropriate
14 ceremonies and activities, to recognize the services
15 and sacrifices of the United States merchant marine,
16 and to observe this day by displaying the flag of the
17 United States at their homes and other suitable
18 places; and

1 (5) requests that all ships sailing under the
2 United States flag prominently display the flag on
3 this day.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2001.

Attest:

Clerk.