

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 109

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2001

Received; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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 Na-  
tion'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

19           (5) requests that all ships sailing under the  
20 United States flag prominently display the flag on  
21 this day.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2001.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*