

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 239

Recognizing the lack of historical recognition of the gallant exploits of the officers and crew of the S.S. Henry Bacon, a Liberty ship that was sunk February 23, 1945, in the waning days of World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2002

Mr. ALLEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the lack of historical recognition of the gallant exploits of the officers and crew of the S.S. Henry Bacon, a Liberty ship that was sunk February 23, 1945, in the waning days of World War II.

Whereas during World War II the S.S. Henry Bacon was assigned the task of conveying war materials and supplies to the beleaguered Russian nation via the dangerous Murmansk Run, and faithfully fulfilled its mission;

Whereas in 1945 the S.S. Henry Bacon saved 19 refugees from Nazi-controlled Norway and accepted these Norwegian refugees from the British for passage to Murmansk;

Whereas the S.S. Henry Bacon, with a full crew and refugees aboard, set sail for Scotland amid the worst storms ever

registered in the Arctic Ocean and suffered damage from the force of the storms and from internal mechanical problems;

Whereas the S.S. Henry Bacon, while suffering from a loss of steering capacity, lost its place in Convoy RA 64 and became a stray, unable to communicate with the convoy and required to maintain radio silence;

Whereas the S.S. Henry Bacon was left to its own devices: engine room workers used a sledgehammer and wedge to physically turn the ship;

Whereas the S.S. Henry Bacon, alone in that freezing sea, came under attack by 23 Junker JU-88s of the German Luftwaffe;

Whereas armed with only several small guns, the United States Navy Armed Guard and the ship's Merchant mariners fought gallantly against the oncoming torpedo bombers;

Whereas mortally wounded after 1 German pilot was successful in delivering a payload to the ship, the S.S. Henry Bacon fought back, shooting down 9 enemy planes;

Whereas when the S.S. Henry Bacon began to sink, her captain ensured that all 19 Norwegian refugees would receive a place in a lifeboat;

Whereas when the lifeboat supply was exhausted, crewmen made rough rafts from the railroad ties that had been used to secure locomotives delivered to Russia;

Whereas the S.S. Henry Bacon went down with 28 casualties, including Captain Alfred Carini, Chief Engineer Donald Haviland, Bosun Holcomb Lammon Jr., and the commanding officer of the United States Navy Armed Guard, Lt. John Sippola, but in its sinking kept the German

planes from looking further and locating the main body of the convoy;

Whereas the 19 Norwegian refugees were saved and ultimately returned to Norway; and

Whereas the actions of the officers and crew of the S.S. Henry Bacon, in the finest tradition of the United States Merchant Marines and the United States Navy, have been recognized by the people of Norway and Russia but, until now, have not been acknowledged by our grateful Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the valiant efforts of the crew of
3 the S.S. Henry Bacon; and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation, calling to memory the deeds, exploits, and
6 sacrifices of the officers and crew of the S.S. Henry
7 Bacon.

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