

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4904

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide certain benefits under that Act to individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide certain benefits under that Act to individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Social Security Fair-
5 ness for Merchant Mariners Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED IN THE**
2 **UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE DURING**
3 **WORLD WAR II.**

4 (a) BENEFITS.—Section 217(d) of the Social Secu-
5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 417(d)) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new paragraph:

7 “(3) The term ‘active military or naval service’
8 includes the service, or any period of forcible deten-
9 tion or internment by an enemy government or hos-
10 tile force as a result of action against a vessel de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (A), of a person who—

12 “(A) was a member of the United States
13 merchant marine (including the Army Trans-
14 port Service and the Naval Transport Service)
15 serving as a crewmember of a vessel that was—

16 “(i) operated by the War Shipping
17 Administration or the Office of Defense
18 Transportation (or an agent of the Admin-
19 istration or Office);

20 “(ii) operated in waters other than in-
21 land waters, the Great Lakes, and other
22 lakes, bays, and harbors of the United
23 States;

24 “(iii) under contract or charter to, or
25 property of, the Government of the United
26 States; and

1 “(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and
2 “(B) while so serving, was licensed or oth-
3 erwise documented for service as a crewmember
4 of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the
5 United States authorized to license or document
6 the person for such service.”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
8 subsection (a) shall apply only with respect to benefits for
9 months beginning on or after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act.

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