

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 750

Recognizing the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself and Mr. STUPAK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service, and for other purposes.

Whereas in 1871 Sumner Increase Kimball was appointed as the Chief of the Revenue Marine Division of the Department of the Treasury;

Whereas in overhauling the Revenue Marine Division and decentralizing the system of lifesaving stations, Mr. Kimball recommended the establishment of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes;

Whereas in 1874 Congress authorized the organization of the Life-Saving Service into 12 districts, including 3 on the Great Lakes;

Whereas the 8th district consisted of Lakes Erie and Ontario, the 9th district consisted of Lakes Huron and Superior, and the 10th district consisted of Lake Michigan;

Whereas in 1878 these lifesaving stations were organized with others around the Nation as a separate agency of the Department of the Treasury known as the United States Life-Saving Service;

Whereas in 1854 at the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, lifesaving capabilities were first introduced to the Great Lakes with 9 lifeboats placed on Lake Ontario, 14 lifeboats placed on Lake Erie, 23 lifeboats placed on Lake Michigan, and 1 lifeboat placed on Lake Superior;

Whereas the forgotten heroes who served at lifesaving stations contended with giant squalls, wrecked vessels, and low pay;

Whereas these men performed amazing rescues, but by far the largest amount of work for the crews revolved around drilling with the rescue equipment, patrol and lookout duty, and general station upkeep;

Whereas the United States Life-Saving Service enabled the shipping industry to rapidly grow on the Great Lakes;

Whereas when the United States Life-Saving Service ended in 1915, 63 Great Lakes stations were in operation, including one on the Mississippi River in Louisville, Kentucky;

Whereas during the years of its operation, the Great Lakes Life-Saving Service contended with 9,763 disasters, saving 55,639 people and \$110,038,860 in property;

Whereas over the course of the United States Life-Saving Service, 20 brave employees gave their lives while performing their duties;

Whereas the organization that Mr. Kimball formed provided the basis for the new search and rescue organization of the Coast Guard; and

Whereas the constant attention to practice with rescue equipment and inspections employed by the United States Life-Saving Service is still in use today: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 130th anniversary of the cre-
3 ation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes,
4 which became part of the United States Life-Saving
5 Service;

6 (2) commends the personnel of the United
7 States Life-Saving Service whose efforts saved lives
8 and property on the Great Lakes; and

9 (3) acknowledges Sumner Increase Kimball for
10 his foresight in the field of marine safety and com-
11 mitment to maritime safety on the Great Lakes.

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