

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 447

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that World War II merchant mariners who were awarded the Mariners Medal shall be provided eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs health care on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that World War II merchant mariners who were awarded the Mariners Medal shall be provided eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs health care on the same basis as veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

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

1 **SECTION 1. WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINERS AWARD-**  
2 **ED THE MARINERS MEDAL TO BE PROVIDED**  
3 **PRIORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
4 **AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE ON SAME BASIS AS**  
5 **VETERANS AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART.**

6 (a) HEALTH CARE PRIORITY.—Sections 1705(a)(3)  
7 and 1710(a)(2)(D) of title 38, United States Code, are  
8 amended by inserting “or the Mariners Medal” after “the  
9 Purple Heart”.

10 (b) MARINERS MEDAL DEFINED.—Section 1701 of  
11 such title is amended by adding at the end the following  
12 new paragraph:

13 “(11) The term ‘Mariners Medal’ means the medal  
14 authorized to be awarded pursuant to section 3 of the Act  
15 of May 10, 1943, entitled ‘An Act to provide for the  
16 issuance of devices in recognition of the services of mer-  
17 chant sailors’ (Public Law 52 of the 78th Congress), to  
18 any person, who while serving on any vessel in the Amer-  
19 ican merchant marine during the World War II period,  
20 was wounded, suffered physical injury, or suffered through  
21 dangerous exposure as a result of an act of an enemy of  
22 the United States.”.

○