

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1272), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TRAINING OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERY PERSONNEL BY NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION.

Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—
(A) in subparagraph (A)—
(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs, including travel expenses, associated with attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration” before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—
(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs, including travel expenses, associated with attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration” before the period;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (d) through (g), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) A grant under this section for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) may be used, solely or in part, for training costs, including travel expenses, associated with attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration.”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2096), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 2096

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRAINING OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERY PERSONNEL BY NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION.

Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—
(A) in subparagraph (A)—
(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs, including travel expenses, associated with attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration” before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—
(i) by striking “and (ii) the cost” and inserting “(ii) the cost”; and

(ii) by inserting “; and (iii) training costs, including travel expenses, associated with

attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration” before the period;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (d) through (g), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) A grant under this section for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) may be used, solely or in part, for training costs, including travel expenses, associated with attendance at training provided by the National Cemetery Administration.”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 550 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 550) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Murkowski substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1273), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2019 marked the 74th anniversary of Allied victory in World War II.

(2) The United States Merchant Marine (in this section referred to as the “Merchant Marine”) was integral in providing the link between domestic production and the fighting forces overseas, providing combat equipment, fuel, food, commodities, and raw materials to troops stationed abroad.

(3) Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King acknowledged the indispensability of the Merchant Marine to the victory in a 1945 letter stating that, without the support of the Merchant Marine, “the Navy could not have accomplished its mission”.

(4) President, and former Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged that “through the prompt delivery of supplies and equipment to our armed forces overseas, and of cargoes representing economic and military aid to friendly nations, the American Merchant Marine has effectively helped to strengthen the forces of freedom throughout the world”.

(5) Military missions and war planning were contingent upon the availability of resources and the Merchant Marine played a vital role in this regard, ensuring the efficient and reliable transoceanic transport of military equipment and both military and civilian personnel.

(6) The Merchant Marine provided for the successful transport of resources and personnel despite consistent and ongoing exposure to enemy combatants from both the air and the sea, including from enemy bomber squadrons, submarines, and naval mines.

(7) The efforts of the Merchant Marine were not without sacrifices as the Merchant Marine likely bore a higher per-capita casualty rate than any of the military branches during the war.

(8) The Merchant Marine proved to be an instrumental asset on an untold number of occasions, participating in every landing operation by the United States Marine Corps, from Guadalcanal to Okinawa.

(9) The Merchant Marine provided the bulk tonnage of material necessary for the invasion of Normandy, an invasion which, according to a 1944 New York Times article, “would not have been possible without the Merchant Marine”.

(10) In assessing the performance of the Merchant Marine, General Eisenhower stated, “every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the Merchant Marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us”.

(11) During a September 1944 speech, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that the Merchant Marine had “delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult, and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken. As time goes on, there will be greater public understanding of our merchant fleet’s record during this war”.

(12) The feats and accomplishments of the Merchant Marine are deserving of broader public recognition.

(13) The United States will be forever grateful and indebted to these merchant mariners for their effective, reliable, and courageous transport of goods and resources in enemy territory throughout theaters of every variety in World War II.

(14) The goods and resources transported by the Merchant Marine saved thousands of lives and enabled the Allied Powers to claim victory in World War II.

(15) The Congressional Gold Medal would be an appropriate way to shed further light on the service of the merchant mariners in World War II and the instrumental role they played in winning that war.

(16) Many students of the Merchant Marine Academy lost their lives as they sailed through enemy-controlled waters or unloaded cargo in overseas combat areas, and, as a result, the United States Merchant Marine Academy is the only institution among the 5 Federal academies to be authorized to carry a battle standard as part of its color guard.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) **AWARD AUTHORIZED.**—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

(b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) **AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the American Merchant Marine Museum should make the gold medal given to the Museum under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the United States Merchant Marine and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the United States Merchant Marine.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) **NATIONAL MEDALS.**—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 550), as amended, was passed.

DOGS AS WITNESS GUARDIANS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1029 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1029) to allow the use of certified facility dogs in criminal proceedings in Federal courts, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1274), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Courthouse Dogs Act”.

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOG FOR TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3502 the following:

“§ 3503. Use of certified facility dog for testimony in criminal proceedings

“(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term ‘certified facility dog’ means a dog that has graduated from an assistance dog organization that is a member of an internationally recognized assistance dog association that has a primary purpose of granting accreditation based on standards of excellence in areas of—

- “(1) assistance dog acquisition;
- “(2) dog training;
- “(3) dog handler training; and
- “(4) dog placement.

“(b) **REQUESTS FOR USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOGS.**—Either party in a criminal proceeding in a Federal court may apply for an order from the court to allow a certified facility dog, if available, to be present with a witness testifying before the court through—

- “(1) in-person testimony; or
- “(2) testimony televised by 2-way, closed-circuit television.

“(c) **CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.**—A Federal court may enter an order authorizing an available certified facility dog to accompany a witness while testifying at a hearing in accordance with subsection (b) if the court finds that—

- “(1) the dog to be used qualifies as a certified facility dog;
- “(2) the use of a certified facility dog will aid the witness in providing testimony; and
- “(3) upon a showing by the party seeking an order under subsection (b), the certified facility dog is insured for liability protection.

“(d) **HANDLERS.**—Each certified facility dog authorized to accompany a witness under subsection (c) shall be accompanied by a handler who is—

- “(1) trained to manage the certified facility dog by an assistance dog organization described in subsection (a); and
- “(2) a professional working in the legal system with knowledge about the legal and criminal justice processes.

“(e) **DEADLINE.**—The party seeking an order under subsection (b) shall apply for such order not later than 14 days before the preliminary hearing, trial date, or other hearing to which the order is to apply.

“(f) **OTHER ORDERS.**—A Federal court may make such orders as may be necessary to preserve the fairness of the proceeding, including imposing restrictions on, and instructing the jury regarding, the presence of the certified facility dog during the proceedings.

“(g) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a Federal court from providing any other accommodations to a witness in accordance with applicable law.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The chapter analysis for chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3502 the following:

“3503. Use of certified facility dog for testimony in criminal proceedings.”.

The bill (S. 1029), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1029

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Courthouse Dogs Act”.

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOG FOR TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3502 the following:

“§ 3503. Use of certified facility dog for testimony in criminal proceedings

“(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term ‘certified facility dog’ means a dog that has graduated from an assistance dog organization that is a member of an internationally recognized assistance dog association that has a primary purpose of granting accreditation based on standards of excellence in areas of—

- “(1) assistance dog acquisition;
- “(2) dog training;
- “(3) dog handler training; and
- “(4) dog placement.

“(b) **REQUESTS FOR USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOGS.**—Either party in a criminal proceeding in a Federal court may apply for an order from the court to allow a certified facility dog, if available, to be present with a witness testifying before the court through—

- “(1) in-person testimony; or
- “(2) testimony televised by 2-way, closed-circuit television.

“(c) **CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.**—A Federal court may enter an order authorizing an available certified facility dog to accompany a witness while testifying at a hearing in accordance with subsection (b) if the court finds that—

- “(1) the dog to be used qualifies as a certified facility dog;
- “(2) the use of a certified facility dog will aid the witness in providing testimony; and
- “(3) upon a showing by the party seeking an order under subsection (b), the certified facility dog is insured for liability protection.

“(d) **HANDLERS.**—Each certified facility dog authorized to accompany a witness under subsection (c) shall be accompanied by a handler who is—

- “(1) trained to manage the certified facility dog by an assistance dog organization described in subsection (a); and
- “(2) a professional working in the legal system with knowledge about the legal and criminal justice processes.

“(e) **DEADLINE.**—The party seeking an order under subsection (b) shall apply for such order not later than 14 days before the preliminary hearing, trial date, or other hearing to which the order is to apply.

“(f) **OTHER ORDERS.**—A Federal court may make such orders as may be necessary to preserve the fairness of the proceeding, including imposing restrictions on, and instructing the jury regarding, the presence of the certified facility dog during the proceedings.

“(g) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a Federal court from providing any other accommodations to a witness in accordance with applicable law.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The chapter analysis for chapter 223 of title 18, United