

HONORING THE METRO-DADE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM FOR THEIR HEROIC RESCUE EFFORTS AT THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING ON APRIL 19, 1995

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, recently, America has been faced with great tragedy. America as a whole has been greatly affected by the bombing of the Edward R. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City. I am sure you all join me in mourning the loss of those Americans whom we lost, and praying for this tragedy's survivors to recover as best they can from this injustice.

The Metro Dade Urban Search and Rescue Team has been a great aid to the unfortunate victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, and I would like to take this time to thank them. As you may remember this is the same group of fearless workers who gave us Floridians so much support in recovering from Hurricane Andrew.

Oftentimes, while grieving the loss of disaster's victims, we forget how courageous and fearless these team members are. I am not only grateful but very proud that you are member of my community. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO RHODES COLLEGE
MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. HAROLD E. FORD

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to members of the Rhodes College Mock Trial Team for winning the 1995 National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament. Rhodes College, a prestigious four year liberal arts college in my congressional district, has for six consecutive years, sent a group of students to the National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament. For four out of six years, the Rhodes College Mock Trial Team has captured this distinguished award.

These undergraduates deserve special mention because they have developed the vital skills of communication, advocacy and rhetoric. Mastery of these skills will make them well qualified for careers in public service, the professions or business. Led by Political Science Professor Marc Pohlman and Memphis Attorney Whit Gurkin, the team consisted of the following Rhodes students: Melissa Berry of Searcy Arkansas, Ryan Feeney of Marietta, Georgia, Jenny Hall of Bartlett, Tennessee, Mike Hart of Monroe, Louisiana, Nikki Holzhauser of Columbus, Mississippi, Karen Jones of Collierville, Tennessee and Gina Yannitell of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The team participated in a trial involving a train which struck an automobile. Because evidence existed that both parties were negligent, the court had to decide proportional responsibility what damages would be awarded.

This year, the team competed in the regional tournament which qualified it to compete in the national tournament in Des

Moines, Iowa on April 5, 1995. A distinguished panel of Iowa Supreme Court Justices and federal judges judged the competition. The jury was comprised of prominent state and local citizens including Iowa Governor Robert Ray. Rhodes joined 72 other colleges and universities in Des Moines and defeated St. Johns University, Northwestern University, University of Minnesota, Dayton University and Loras College to win the national championship. Among the prominent schools that participated in the competition were Brown, Cornell, Duke, Grinnell, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, and Yale.

The Rhodes Mock Trial Team is carrying on the college's tradition of advocacy and debate. Its continued success is a tribute to the quality of higher education in Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District. I am proud and honored to recognize this important milestone.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, today, we observe National Maritime Day to pay honor and tribute to those who served our country in the merchant marine during the Second World War.

We have observed this day since 1945, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by proclamation, designated this day. For our observance this year, the 50th since the end of the war, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Vice Adm. Albert J. Herberger, has written a moving tribute to the merchant mariners who gave of themselves a half-century ago. It is my pleasure to share this tribute with my colleagues:

THE MERCHANT MARINE DURING WORLD
WAR II

By Maritime Administrator Albert J.
Herberger)

Fifty years ago, America celebrated National Maritime Day in inland cities such as Kansas City, Akron and Salt Lake City, as well as in the Nation's Capitol and many port cities.

Governors of West Virginia, Nebraska, New Mexico and Indiana joined their coastal colleagues in issuing proclamations or statements honoring those who built and sailed the merchant ships so vital to the war effort.

The President, too, asked the people of the United States to observe May 22, 1945 as National Maritime Day. It was the last proclamation issued by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In his Maritime Day proclamation, President Roosevelt saluted the "... many thousands of patriotic men and women [who] are toiling through the long hours of the day and night in the construction of the great fleets of vessels that carry the goods of victory to the distant battlefronts of the United Nations ..."

"Our ships, sailing every ocean, have been manned by courageous officers and seamen all of whom have left the security of their firesides and many of whom have given their lives for the land of their allegiance. . . ."

Many civilian American seafarers made the ultimate sacrifice; more than 6,000 were killed, and 733 American cargo ships were lost to enemy action.

Thousands were injured during attacks. Many were forced to wait aboard lifeboats and rafts, hoping for rescue after their vessels were lost.

The story of Capt. James F. Harrell, master of the SS GULF STATES, was told in this contemporary account:

"Proceeding in convoy through an area of enemy submarine activity, he sighted, at a great distance, two drifting lifeboats heavily loaded with survivors apparently too exhausted to signal. Though fully aware of the danger to his own ship, he obtained permission from the Commodore to leave the protection of the convoy and succeeded in taking aboard 106 survivors of a torpedoed Dutch ship in a rescue operation which required three hours to effect.

"On a subsequent voyage, his ship, carrying 78,000 barrels of crude oil, was hit by two torpedoes. Fire immediately enveloped the entire after part of the ship trapping all but the Master and eleven of his crew.

"Captain Harrell directed the launching of the one remaining life raft, ordered the men with him over the side, and chose to give his life in a heroic attempt to rescue the trapped men."

Capt. Harrell was one of nine officers and seamen of the nation's wartime merchant fleet who were awarded the merchant marine distinguished Service Medal during May 1945. His was presented posthumously to his wife, Alice Harrell, of Port Arthur, Texas.

Another recipient was Paul Irwin Valentine, of Tiffin, Ohio. He served as second cook and baker aboard the SS DANIEL HUGER. Following is his story, as recounted in 1945:

"His ship was subjected to a two-hour high level bombing attack by seventeen enemy planes. As a result of a near miss, bomb fragments pierced the hull and the cargo of high octane gasoline exploded.

"Despite heroic efforts to combat the flames two to three hundred feet high, the fire was soon out of control and the ship was abandoned.

"Upon arrival of the shore fire brigade it was decided to try to save the ship with foamite. It was necessary to have a few men return to the ship, enter the adjacent hold, and play a hose on the heated bulkhead to prevent the raging fire from spreading.

"Second Cook and Baker Valentine was one of four who volunteered to risk his life in an attempt to save part of the cargo, which was so necessary to the continuance of war operations. That the fire was eventually brought under control and most of the cargo saved, was due in no small measure to his outstanding bravery."

As the citation issued to him 50 years ago said, "His willingness to risk his life to save his ship, and his heroic conduct during the fire are in keeping with the finest traditions of the sea."

These are just two examples of the heroism of America's civilian seafarers. From the beginning of the war to May 31, 1945, awards to merchant mariners included 113 Distinguished Service Medals, 11 Meritorious Service Medals, 3,893 Mariner's Medals, 32 congratulatory letters, 192,282 Merchant Marine emblems, 84,697 combat bars, 5,957 defense bars and 363,292 was zone bars for service in the Atlantic, Pacific, or Mediterranean-Middle East war zone bars.

Merchant mariners came from all parts of the country to serve the nation. Those receiving awards in May 1945 represented the states of Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina,