

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 28

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass H.R.2992 and S.2989, which award Congressional Gold Medal to members of United States Merchant Marine of World War II.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Congress of the United
2 States to pass H.R.2992 and S.2989, which award the
3 Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the United States
4 Merchant Marine of World War II.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, The year 2015 marked the 70th Anniversary of the Allied
7 victory in World War II and makes this an appropriate time to
8 celebrate the contributions made to the war effort by the United
9 States Merchant Marine; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Both H.R.2992, the “Merchant Marine of World War II
11 Congressional Gold Medal Act,” and S.2989, the “Merchant
12 Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2016,”
13 would recognize the contributions of the mariners to the war effort
14 and award the Congressional Gold Medal to the mariners of World
15 War II; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The United State Merchant Marine is a fleet of ships which
17 is used to convey exports and imports in time of peace but can be
18 converted to a naval auxiliary during times of war; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The United States Merchant Marine was a crucial
20 component of the Allied victory in World War II as their ships
21 fulfilled the critical logistical role of carrying the personnel,
22 supplies, and equipment needed to power a modern military
23 machine; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The heroic action of the United States Merchant Marine
25 would allow Allied troops, scattered around the globe, to receive
26 critical supplies of food, fuel, military equipment, and combat
27 weapons to aid in the Allied powers’ military efforts; and
28 **WHEREAS**, During their World War II service, the United States
29 Merchant Marine endured tremendous losses as 9,497 mariners died
30 and at least 1,127 mariners were injured in the service of their
31 country, with a total 3.9 percent of mariners serving in World War
32 II killed in the line of duty, the highest percentage among the armed
33 services serving during World War II; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Of the mariners’ war time service, President Franklin D.
35 Roosevelt said that they “have written one of its most brilliant
36 chapters. They have delivered the goods when and where needed in
37 every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest,
38 the most difficult and dangerous job ever undertaken. As time goes
39 on, there will be a greater public understanding of our merchant’s
40 fleet record during” World War II; and
41 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the United States of
42 America to formally recognize the contributions and sacrifices
43 made by the mariners in aid of the Allied military efforts during
44 World War II by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the
45 mariners of World War II; and
46 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the State of New
47 Jersey to urge the House of Representatives of the United States to
48 pass H.R.2992, the “Merchant Marine of World War II

1 Congressional Gold Medal Act,” and to urge the Senate of the
2 United States to pass S.2989, the “Merchant Mariners of World
3 War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2016,”; now, therefore,
4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
6 *Jersey:*
7

8 1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
9 respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass legislation,
10 currently pending before the House of Representatives as H.R.2992
11 and before the Senate as S.2989, which awards the Congressional
12 Gold Medal to the members of the United States Merchant Mariners
13 of World War II.
14

15 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
16 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to
17 Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker
18 of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of
19 Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this
20 State.
21

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23 STATEMENT
24

25 This resolution urges the Congress of the United States to pass
26 the “Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal
27 Act of 2016,” currently pending before the Senate as S.2989, and
28 the “Merchant Marine of World War II Congressional Gold Medal
29 Act,” currently pending before the House of Representatives as
30 H.R.2992. While S.2989 and H.R.2992 are not identical, they both
31 acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices made by the United
32 States Merchant Marine in their service during World War II by
33 awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to the mariners serving
34 during that time. This Congressional recognition of the mariners
35 serving during World War II is fitting and proper as the United
36 States Merchant Marine was instrumental in transporting military
37 personnel, equipment and supplies in support of the Allied war
38 efforts in the Pacific and European theaters of war.