

Union Calendar No. 171

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 23

[Report No. 110-269, Part I]

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JULY 27, 2007

Additional sponsors: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HARE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BONNER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. REYES, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, Mr. SHULER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SPACE, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. OLVER, Mr. STARK, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Ten-

nessee, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. LEE, Mr. MICA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BOREN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WOLF, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HODES, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DENT, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WU, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. POE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. PETRI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BACA, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FARR, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. ISSA, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. BONO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KIND, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. UPTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MELANCON, and Mrs. LOWEY

JULY 27, 2007

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with amendments

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

JULY 27, 2007

Committee on Ways and Means discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 4, 2007]

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Belated Thank You to*
 5 *the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DURING**
 7 **WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES MER-**
 8 **CHANT MARINE.**

9 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION FUND.—Sub-*
 10 *chapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is*
 11 *amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

12 **“§532. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund**

13 *“(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—(1) There is in the gen-*
 14 *eral fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Mer-*

1 *chant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund* (in this section
2 referred to as the ‘compensation fund’).

3 “(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations for
4 such purpose, amounts in the fund shall be available to the
5 Secretary without fiscal year limitation to make payments
6 to eligible individuals in accordance with this section.

7 “(b) *ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS*.—(1) An eligible indi-
8 vidual is an individual who—

9 “(A) before October 1, 2009, submits to the Sec-
10 retary an application containing such information
11 and assurances as the Secretary may require;

12 “(B) has not received benefits under the Service-
13 men’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-
14 346); and

15 “(C) has engaged in qualified service.

16 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has en-
17 gaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941, and
18 December 31, 1946, the person—

19 “(A) was a member of the United States mer-
20 chant marine (including the Army Transport Service
21 and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crew-
22 member of a vessel that was—

23 “(i) operated by the War Shipping Admin-
24 istration or the Office of Defense Transportation
25 (or an agent of the Administration or Office);

1 “(ii) operated in waters other than inland
2 waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays,
3 and harbors of the United States;

4 “(iii) under contract or charter to, or prop-
5 erty of, the Government of the United States;
6 and

7 “(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

8 “(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise
9 documented for service as a crewmember of such a
10 vessel by an officer or employee of the United States
11 authorized to license or document the person for such
12 service.

13 “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall
14 make a monthly payment out of the compensation fund in
15 the amount of \$1,000 to an eligible individual. The Sec-
16 retary shall make such payments to eligible individuals in
17 the order in which the Secretary receives the applications
18 of the eligible individuals.

19 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)
20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the compensa-
21 tion fund amounts as follows:

22 “(A) For fiscal year 2008, \$120,000,000.

23 “(B) For fiscal year 2009, \$108,000,000.

24 “(C) For fiscal year 2010, \$97,000,000.

25 “(D) For fiscal year 2011, \$85,000,000.

1 “(E) For fiscal year 2012, \$75,000,000.

2 “(2) Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall
3 remain available until expended.

4 “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in docu-
5 ments submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support
6 of the President’s budget for each fiscal year, detailed infor-
7 mation on the operation of the compensation fund, includ-
8 ing the number of applicants, the number of eligible indi-
9 viduals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the com-
10 pensation fund, the administration of the compensation
11 fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to fully
12 fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and each
13 of the three subsequent fiscal years.

14 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe reg-
15 ulations to carry out this section.”.

16 “(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
18 scribe the regulations required under section 532(f) of title
19 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

20 “(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at
21 the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after
22 the item related to section 531 the following new item:

“532. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity

Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.”.

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