
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 148 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, VULAKOVICH, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, FONTANA,
MENSCH, COSTA, WHITE AND AUMENT, JUNE 12, 2015

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JUNE 12, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 563, which
2 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the
3 Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits
4 to certain individuals who served in the United States
5 merchant marine during World War II.

6 WHEREAS, During World War II, more than 200,000 Americans
7 served in the United States merchant marine; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States merchant marine aided our nation's
9 military efforts in both Europe and the Pacific; and

10 WHEREAS, Thousands of merchant mariners faced enemy attack
11 and died at sea while hundreds more were captured and held as
12 prisoners of war; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite having the highest casualty rate of any
14 United States service branch during World War II, members of the
15 United States merchant marine were not eligible to receive
16 veteran's benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, Many of these brave veterans are now well into their
18 90s, and fewer than 5,000 of them are alive; and

19 WHEREAS, It is fitting to honor the merchant mariners who

1 served during World War II for their sacrifice, dedication and
2 bravery; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 563, which
5 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the
6 Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to
7 certain individuals who served in the United States merchant
8 marine during World War II.