

May, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American maritime industry, we write asking you to support H.R. 550, the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019. The legislation currently has nearly 150 co-sponsors.

U.S. merchant mariners were the unsung heroes of World War II. Collectively, 250,000 merchant seamen served in this war delivering seven million servicemen to the war zone and tens of millions of tons of essential war equipment, ammunition, and other supplies. The U.S. Merchant Marine was the only integrated service in World War II, and a significant percentage of the mariners were African American.

No service suffered more losses and has received so little recognition. One out of every 26 merchant mariners was lost, *the highest casualty rate of any service*. 8,241 merchant mariners perished, and many others were captured as prisoners of war. 1,500 merchant ships were sunk, often essentially defenseless against enemy military vessels. World War II merchant mariners were promised benefits equivalent to the GI Bill by President Franklin Roosevelt; however, they waited 43 years (until 1988) and then only received limited benefits.

These merchant mariners traveled into war zones in the most challenging of situations, knowing the risk. Their bravery is indisputable and today only about 2,000 World War II merchant mariners remain. As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Allied victory that literally changed the world, we hope you will join us in co-sponsoring this legislation to ensure that these great American heroes receive the recognition that they deserve. We are proud to serve in an industry associated with these courageous men and women.

Sincerely,

American Construction Company
Tacoma, Washington

American Great Lakes Ports Association
Washington, D.C.

American Maritime Congress
Washington, D.C.

American Maritime Officers
Dania Beach, FL

American Maritime Officers Service
Washington, D.C.

American Merchant Marine Veterans
Dunnellon, Florida

American Pilots Association
Washington, D.C.

American Roll-On/Roll-Off Carrier (ARC)
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey

American Steamship Company
Buffalo, New York

American Waterways Operators
Arlington, Virginia

Andrie LLC
Muskegon, Michigan

American President Lines, LLC
Rockville, Maryland

Association for Rescue at Sea
Fish Creek, Wisconsin

Bold Ocean, LLC
Annapolis, Maryland

California Maritime Academy
Vallejo, California

Callan Marine, LTD
Galveston, Texas

The Captain Richard Phillips Lane Kirkland Maritime Trust
Linthicum Heights, MD

Cashman Dredging
Quincy, Massachusetts

Central Marine Logistics, Inc.
Griffith, Indiana

Consumer Energy Alliance
Houston, Texas

Cottrell Contracting Corporation
Chesapeake, Virginia

Crowley Maritime
Jacksonville, Florida

Dredge America, Inc.
Kansas City, Missouri

Dredging Contractors of America
Washington, D.C.

Durocher Marine
Cheboygan, Michigan

Dutra Dredging Company
San Rafael, California

Federal Pilots of Louisiana
Metairie, Louisiana

Fishermen's Finest, Inc.
Kirkland, Washington

Foss Maritime Company
Seattle, Washington

Fraser Shipyards
Superior, Wisconsin

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company
Oak Brook, Illinois

Great Lakes Dock and Materials Company
Muskegon, Michigan

Great Lakes Maritime Academy
Traverse City, Michigan

Great Lakes Maritime Task Force
Toledo, Ohio

Gulf States Dredging, LLC
Houston, Texas

Gunderson Marine
Portland, Oregon

Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
Piscataway, NJ

Ingram Barge Company
Nashville, Tennessee

Inland Dredging Company
Dyersburg, Tennessee

Interlake Steamship
Middleburg Heights, Ohio

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
Kansas City, Kansas

International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Linthicum Heights, Maryland

International Ship Masters' Association
Detroit, Michigan

J.F. Brennan Company
La Crosse, Wisconsin

JT Cleary, Inc.
Brooklyn, New York

Key Lakes / Great Lakes Fleet
Duluth, Minnesota

Keystone Shipping Company
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
Omaha, Nebraska

The King Co.
Holland, Michigan

Kirby Corporation
Houston, Texas

Lake Michigan Car Ferry
Ludington, Michigan

Lake Carriers' Association
Cleveland, Ohio

Lakes Pilots Association, Inc.
Port Huron, Michigan

Liberty Maritime Corporation
Lake Success, New York

Longshoremen's Association, Local 1768
Genoa, Ohio

Luedtke Engineering Company
Frankfort, Michigan

Maersk Line, Limited
Norfolk, VA

Marine Firemen's Union
San Francisco, CA

Maine Maritime Academy
Castine, Maine

Manson Construction Co.
Seattle, Washington

Marine Engineers Beneficial Association
Washington, D.C.

Marine Tech, LLC
Duluth, Minnesota

Marinex Construction Company
Charleston, SC

Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
Washington, D.C.

Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Washington, D.C.

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

Matson, Inc.
Honolulu, Hawaii

M.C.M. Marine, Inc.
Sault St. Marie, Michigan

Mike Hooks, L.L.C.
Westlake, Louisiana

Moran Towing Corporation
New Canaan, Connecticut

Mormac Marine Group
New Canaan, Connecticut

Navy League of the United States
Arlington, Virginia

Northern Engineering
Superior, Wisconsin

Offshore Marine Services Association
New Orleans, Louisiana

OSG
Tampa, Florida

Pasha Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Passenger Vessel Association
Alexandria, Virginia

Pere Marquette Shipping
Ludington, Michigan

Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel Company
Whitehall, Arkansas

Port of Monroe
Monroe, Michigan

Ports of Indiana
Indianapolis, Indiana

R.E. Staite Engineering, Inc.
San Diego, California

RLB Contracting, Inc.
Port Lavaca, Texas

Roen Salvage Company
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

Ryba Marine Construction Co.
Cheboygan, Michigan

Sailors Union of the Pacific
San Francisco, California

Saltchuk
Seattle, Washington

SEACOR Holdings, Inc.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots Association
Cape Vincent, New York

Seafarers International Union
Camp Spring, Maryland

Shipbuilders Council of America
Washington, D.C.

Southern Dredging Company, Inc.
Charleston, South Carolina

State University of New York Maritime College
Throggs Neck, New York

Texas A&M Maritime Academy
Galveston, Texas

TOTE
Jacksonville, Florida

Transportation Institute
Camp Springs, Maryland

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Washington, D.C.

US Ocean, LLC
Houston, TX

U.S. Shipping Corp
Edison, New Jersey

Vortex Marine Construction, Inc.
Antioch, California

Weeks Marine, Inc.
Cranford, New Jersey

Western Great Lakes Pilots Association
Superior, Wisconsin