In the Senate of the United States,
December 19, 2019.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 550) entitled “An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2 This Act may be cited as the “Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2019 marked the 74th anniversary of Allied victory in World War II.

(2) The United States Merchant Marine (in this section referred to as the “Merchant Marine”) was in-
tegral in providing the link between domestic production and the fighting forces overseas, providing combat equipment, fuel, food, commodities, and raw materials to troops stationed abroad.

(3) Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King acknowledged the indispensability of the Merchant Marine to the victory in a 1945 letter stating that, without the support of the Merchant Marine, “the Navy could not have accomplished its mission”.

(4) President, and former Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged that “through the prompt delivery of supplies and equipment to our armed forces overseas, and of cargoes representing economic and military aid to friendly nations, the American Merchant Marine has effectively helped to strengthen the forces of freedom throughout the world”.

(5) Military missions and war planning were contingent upon the availability of resources and the Merchant Marine played a vital role in this regard, ensuring the efficient and reliable transoceanic transport of military equipment and both military and civilian personnel.

(6) The Merchant Marine provided for the successful transport of resources and personnel despite
consistent and ongoing exposure to enemy combatants
from both the air and the sea, including from enemy
bomber squadrons, submarines, and naval mines.

(7) The efforts of the Merchant Marine were not
without sacrifices as the Merchant Marine likely bore
a higher per-capita casualty rate than any of the
military branches during the war.

(8) The Merchant Marine proved to be an instru-
mental asset on an untold number of occasions, par-
ticipating in every landing operation by the United
States Marine Corps, from Guadalcanal to Okinawa.

(9) The Merchant Marine provided the bulk ton-
nage of material necessary for the invasion of Nor-
mandy, an invasion which, according to a 1944 New
York Times article, “would not have been possible
without the Merchant Marine”.

(10) In assessing the performance of the Mer-
chant Marine, General Eisenhower stated, “every man
in this Allied command is quick to express his admi-
ration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the of-
ficers and men of the Merchant Marine. We count
upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty
as we do our own; they have never failed us”.

(11) During a September 1944 speech, President
Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that the Merchant Ma-
rine had “delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult, and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken. As time goes on, there will be greater public understanding of our merchant fleet’s record during this war”.

(12) The feats and accomplishments of the Merchant Marine are deserving of broader public recognition.

(13) The United States will be forever grateful and indebted to these merchant mariners for their effective, reliable, and courageous transport of goods and resources in enemy territory throughout theaters of every variety in World War II.

(14) The goods and resources transported by the Merchant Marine saved thousands of lives and enabled the Allied Powers to claim victory in World War II.

(15) The Congressional Gold Medal would be an appropriate way to shed further light on the service of the merchant mariners in World War II and the instrumental role they played in winning that war.

(16) Many students of the Merchant Marine Academy lost their lives as they sailed through enemy-controlled waters or unloaded cargo in overseas
combat areas, and, as a result, the United States Mer-
chant Marine Academy is the only institution among
the 5 Federal academies to be authorized to carry a
battle standard as part of its color guard.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House
of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the
Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award,
on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate
design to the United States merchant mariners of World
War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service
during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall
strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall
be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum,
where it will be available for display as appropriate
and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
Congress that the American Merchant Marine Mu-
The museum should make the gold medal given to the Museum under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the United States Merchant Marine and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the United States Merchant Marine.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

Attest:

Secretary.