

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4678

To authorize conveyance of each of two National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels to The Victory Ship, Inc., located in Tampa, Florida.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

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## A BILL

To authorize conveyance of each of two National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels to The Victory Ship, Inc., located in Tampa, Florida.

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. CONVEYANCE OF VESSELS S/S AMERICAN VIC-**  
4       **TORY AND S/S HATTIESBURG VICTORY.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law,  
6       the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this section  
7       as the “Secretary”) may convey the right, title, and inter-  
8       est of the United States Government in and to each of  
9       the vessels S/S AMERICAN VICTORY (Victory Ship  
10      VC2–S–AP2; United States official number 248005) and

1 S/S HATTIESBURG VICTORY (Victory Ship VC2-S-  
2 AP2; United States official number 248651) to The Vic-  
3 tory Ship, Inc., located in Tampa, Florida (in this section  
4 referred to as “the recipient”), and the recipient may use  
5 the vessels for the purposes of a memorial to the American  
6 Merchant Marine, if—

7 (1) the vessel is not used for commercial trans-  
8 portation purposes;

9 (2) the recipient agrees to make the vessel  
10 available to the Government if the Secretary requires  
11 use of the vessel by the Government for war or a na-  
12 tional emergency;

13 (3) the recipient agrees to hold the Government  
14 harmless for any claims arising from any exposure  
15 to hazardous materials (including asbestos and  
16 PCB’s) occurring after conveyance of the vessel, ex-  
17 cept for claims arising from use by the Government  
18 under paragraph (2);

19 (4) the recipient has available, for use to re-  
20 store the vessel, in the form of cash, liquid assets,  
21 or a written loan commitment, financial resources of  
22 at least \$100,000; and

23 (5) the recipient agrees to any other conditions  
24 the Secretary considers appropriate.

25 (b) DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—If a conveyance of a vessel  
2       is made under this section, the Secretary shall de-  
3       liver the vessel at the place where the vessel is lo-  
4       cated on the date of enactment of this Act.

5           (2) COMPLETION OF PHASE CYCLE.—Upon re-  
6       quest of the recipient, before delivering a vessel  
7       under this section, the Secretary shall complete one  
8       phase cycle of the vessel with an engineer represent-  
9       ing the recipient present to observe the condition,  
10      operation, and maintenance techniques of the ship-  
11      board systems.

12       (c) OTHER UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary  
13      may convey to the recipient any unneeded equipment from  
14      other vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet for  
15      use to restore to museum quality each vessel conveyed  
16      under this section.

17       (d) RETENTION OF VESSELS IN NDRF.—The Sec-  
18      retary shall retain in the National Defense Reserve Fleet  
19      each of the vessels authorized to be conveyed under sub-  
20      section (a), until the earlier of—

21           (1) 2 years after the date of the enactment of  
22       this Act; or

23           (2) the date of conveyance of the vessel under  
24       subsection (a).

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