

of the U.S. Merchant Marine who served during World War II. They were rightly recognized as veterans of the Armed Forces in 1988, and the nation owes them gratitude.

The response from the Merchant Mariners: Senator LARRY E. CRAIG, *Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Misinformation is prevalent and must be rebutted when Veterans of World War II are maligned. Especially the reputations of 9,000 men who gave their lives for this country and lay for the most part in Davy Jones' locker at the bottom of the sea. There are no monuments or headstones where they lay forgotten by the millions of people who benefited from their valiant sacrifices. There are no MIA lists because the government didn't want to disclose the huge losses in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Let's correct the Record—I am referring to the website of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. A Bill before the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 23—"A Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005" and its companion Bill in the U.S. Senate, S. 1272 sponsored by Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska is under attack by Senator Larry Craig of Idaho. We would like to point out that this attack is full of misinformation.

Senator Craig is eloquent in his praise of the U.S. Merchant Marine but undermines their credibility with erroneous and false statements, possibly not intentional but nevertheless damaging to their efforts to establish their rights under the G.I. Bill that benefited all other Veterans of World War II.

(1) Senator Craig lists on his website as item No. 1 "The Cost of S. 1272 is considerable" assuming that just 3,000 Merchant Marine and the wives are alive today. Two things are wrong about that statement. Compared to the cost of lives lost on September 11th at over \$1,400,000 each, the cost per surviving Merchant Marine remaining life span under S. 1272 is negligible. A truer count of remaining Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II has been estimated at close to 10,000 with an estimated 3,000 wives. This has been established by the survivors in their voluntary unincorporated association of the Just Compensation Committee members. It is hard to believe that the Veterans' Affairs Committee would be hard pressed to find \$120,000,000 to fund the first year of an approximate ten year cost to compensate these Veterans for the 40 years of failure to deliver them the G.I. Bill of Rights.

(2) Senator Craig further says on his website that S. 1272 would result in additional spending on 29 other groups who have attained Veterans' status also. These 29 groups total less than 1,000 civilians under military authority, most of whom are dead today and were very far from "harm's way." The Merchant Marine had 250,000 men on armed vessels during World War II, all volunteers, who were in "harm's way" 100 percent of their service time with 81% exposed to enemy action. Senator Craig states that Congress often granted benefits to Veterans long after service. Millions and millions of dollars were granted to Veterans under the G.I. Bill of 1944. The problem is Congress has failed to pay the Merchant Marine Veterans for over 40 years.

(3) Senator Craig keeps referring to the Merchant Marine claim as similar to Medal of Honor recipients. This is not true and a distortion of facts. All other Veterans of World War II received assistance in the equivalent value of \$120,000 in 1946 dollars. Adjusted for inflation, the U.S. Government owes the Merchant Marine Veterans over \$1 million dollars each for their 40 years of neglectful lack of timely payment of benefits. No one covets the \$1,000 per month paid to

Medal of Honor recipients which the government bestows on them. A \$1,000 per month for the 78- to 88-year-old Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II with an expected 3- to 5-year remaining lifetime is a bargain settlement for our government. Most of these aged Veterans subsist on Social Security payments and Medicare struggling to survive in these days of rampant inflation.

(4) Senator Craig states in his website that "In effect, the bill seeks to grant a Veterans' benefit to individuals, not Veterans." The U.S. Congress passed the Fairness Act that recognized that World War II officially ended December 31, 1946 and those who gave service up to that date were entitled to be called Veterans.

We thank Senator Craig for stating that the members of the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II "were rightly recognized as Veterans of Armed Forces in 1988 and the nation owes them its gratitude."

I would like to refresh the recollection of the members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate by setting forth the words of the most honored leaders of World War II as to their regard of the men who sailed the ships of the Merchant Marine.

The Merchant Mariners of World War II have been our forgotten heroes.

"The men and women who build the ships, the men who sail them, are making it possible to transport fighting men and supplies wherever they are needed to defeat the enemy. The Army is deeply indebted to these men and women for their unceasing effort to do everything in their power to hasten the day of victory."—General of the Army George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

"When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the Merchant Marine."—General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe.

"The Merchant Marine . . . has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team."—Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Theater.

"The men and ships of the Merchant Marine have participated in every landing operation by the United States Marine Corps from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima—and we know they will be at hand with supplies and equipment when American amphibious forces hit the beaches of Japan itself . . . We of the Marine Corps salute the men of the merchant fleet."—General A.A. Vandergrift, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps.

" . . . their contribution was just as important as that of the troops . . . During the Tripoli campaign I went down to the water-front and personally thanked the men and skippers of the merchant ships for getting through with the stuff . . ."—Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery.

"Because the Navy shares life and death, attack and victory, with the men of the United States Merchant Marine, we are fully aware of their contribution to the victory which must come."—Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations.

"I wish to commend to you the valor of the merchant seamen participating with us in the liberation of the Philippines. With us they have shared the heaviest enemy fire. On these islands I have ordered them off their ships and into foxholes when their ships became untenable targets of attack. At our side they have suffered in bloodshed and in death . . . They have contributed tremendously to our success. I hold no branch in higher esteem than the Merchant Marine Service."—General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

"Our growing power on the seas is not alone a war measure. As a post-war policy,

American ships will retain the commanding position in world trade which we are now approaching our war effort . . ."—Vice Admiral E.S. Land USN (Ret.), War Shipping Administrator.

HONORING DAVE DONAHUE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations to Dave Donahue on the occasion of his retirement from Clear Channel broadcasting. I am certain that all who have had the opportunity to work with him during his illustrious career will miss him.

Dave Donahue is a recipient of the Country Music Association's "Station of the Year Award", Billboard's "Top Ten Programmers Award", and has served on the board of directors for the Country Music Hall of Fame Awards. He became the first Agenda Chairman for the Country Radio Seminar and was its first Exhibit Hall Director. He is a commissioned Kentucky Colonel and a former legislative director for the State of Tennessee House of Representatives. In 2000, Dave was inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame.

Dave Donahue has had a long and successful career that has spanned many years of outstanding service, dedication, hard work, devotion, and love for country music. I am proud to recognize Dave Donahue for his tireless dedication to the entertainment industry. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave on his wonderful service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EUGENE J. MCCARTHY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as we resume our business I want to pause for a moment and note the death of a giant in American political history. On December 10, 2005, the Honorable Eugene Joseph McCarthy, former Representative and Senator from Minnesota, departed this life at age 89. Although many Americans, especially the young, may not know much of McCarthy's career or his role in our country's history, we are all fortunate that he chose public service and once trod the halls of this Capitol as a Member.

In the days following the Senator's death here in Washington of the effects of Parkinsonism, much has been written about him. Born on March 29, 1916, McCarthy grew up in Watkins, Minnesota, where, he once said, the culture revolved around baseball, the church, and the railroad. After earning a master's degree at the University of Minnesota, following initial diversions through study for the priesthood and a semi-professional baseball career, McCarthy became a college professor. He worked in the War Department during

World War II and married, having three daughters and a son. In 1948, the historic election ultimately featuring the erroneous Chicago Tribune headline "Dewey Defeats Truman," McCarthy won a seat in the U.S. House, representing St. Paul. Taking his seat in 1949, Eugene McCarthy embarked on a solidly liberal voting record in the House, whose Members included John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, and Richard M. Nixon.

It immediately became clear that Eugene McCarthy had uncommon political courage. During his first term, another McCarthy, Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, created an uproar in a February 1950 speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, by waving around an alleged list of Communists in the State Department.

Joe McCarthy's subsequent Red-baiting rampage through the early 1950s thus began, destroying numerous peoples' careers and intimidating countless more. In 1952, Eugene McCarthy, then a second-term Congressman of the minority party, had an opportunity and the courage to confront the author of "McCarthyism" in a nationally broadcast television debate, one of the earliest of its kind. Observers of the "McCarthy vs. McCarthy" debate considered the outcome a draw—in reality, a tremendous victory for the mild-mannered Congressman from Minnesota.

After five terms in the House, during which he helped to found the Democratic Study Group, an organization committed to advancing liberal public policies, Eugene McCarthy successfully challenged the incumbent conservative Republican Senator Edward Thyne. For Democrats, the 1958 election yielded spectacular results, and McCarthy joined a large class of new Senators, one of whom, the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, serves to this day.

In the years to follow, the new Senator McCarthy continued his solidly liberal voting record, supporting civil rights, anti-poverty legislation, and the creation of Medicare. He decried racism and the ills of poverty, and supported most proposals of the "New Frontier" and the "Great Society" during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Of course, the momentous event of Eugene McCarthy's 22 years in Congress was his courageous, insurgent campaign for the 1968 Democratic Presidential nomination, which changed the course of history for America and the world.

Like 87 other Senators, Eugene McCarthy had voted for the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in August 1964, which gave President Johnson authority to wage war in Vietnam. The climate in which that vote had occurred, a few days after an alleged attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats against two American destroyers, made the resolution virtually impossible to oppose. But Senator McCarthy, who served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came to regret his vote when it became clear to him that the Johnson administration would expend vast sums and thousands of lives in a conflict that even the President himself, we now know from taped telephone conversations, doubted could be won.

McCarthy believed the war was not only unwinnable, but morally wrong. Defying the administration, he urged a new course and called for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. By the time he announced on November 30, 1967, that he would seek the 1968 Democratic

Presidential nomination, more than 15,000 American service men and women had died, along with tens of thousands of Vietnamese, with no end in sight.

Senator McCarthy's decision to challenge President Johnson shocked and divided the Democratic Party and the country. But dissatisfaction with the war policy had found a champion. Senator McCarthy argued that the billions of dollars being spent in Vietnam could be better put to work, and that withdrawal from Vietnam would not hurt American national security. He launched a campaign focusing on four States scheduled to hold Democratic primaries, beginning with New Hampshire.

In addition to others eager for change, the McCarthy campaign attracted the support of thousands of college students from across the country, many of whom flocked into the State and rang doorbells in support of the Senator, explaining the problems with the war and his vision for a rational solution. To respond to the charge that only "hippies" and "communists" opposed the war, young men shaved their beards and went "clean for Gene." Ben Shahn and other famous artists painted campaign posters, entertainers, including singers Peter, Paul and Mary, who remained the Senator's lifelong friends, wrote and performed.

In the New Hampshire Democratic primary, the Senator received an astounding 42 percent of the vote, to the President's 49 percent, leading the President to withdraw from the race later that month. The McCarthy campaign continued, exhilarated by the result. But after Senator McCarthy demonstrated the vulnerability of the President and overall dissatisfaction with the war, Senator Robert Kennedy entered the race also on an anti-war platform, and fellow Minnesotan Hubert Humphrey, the Vice President, entered as the "establishment" Democrat after President Johnson's withdrawal. Following the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, who had endorsed Senator McCarthy in the California primary, and Senator Robert Kennedy, Vice President Humphrey amassed the delegates needed to win the nomination, and nearly defeated Richard Nixon in the general election.

After leaving the Senate in 1970, McCarthy remained a vital force in American politics, offering an independent point of view on issues, especially campaigns and elections. He wrote dozens of books, poetry, and continued making his unique contribution to our culture until his death.

Mr. Speaker, although the Senator's wife Abigail and their daughter Mary preceded the Senator in death, their daughters Margaret and Ellen survive, along with son Michael. In a personal note, as many of our colleagues know, daughter Ellen McCarthy serves on the Democratic staff of the Committee on House Administration. Every day, Ellen skillfully helps our Committee, other Members and their staffs to navigate the maze of rules, regulations, and other issues they confront in the course of their work here in the House. Speaking for the Committee, we are grateful that Senator McCarthy's dedication to public service led to Ellen's work with us, and we share not only her loss, but also her intense personal pride in her father's accomplishments in this world.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of this Congress, and indeed every American, should give thanks for the life and career of Eugene McCarthy. He had the wisdom to see a wrong, and the courage to act when it mattered, all at

great political peril, and ultimately, sacrifice. We have too seldom seen his like before, and I fear we shall not soon see his like again.

CURRENT CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. The deployment of more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates that China still stubbornly clings to a military solution to the Taiwan issue. Mr. Speaker, military intimidation over Taiwan is no solution to the cross-strait relations.

China must learn to respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want to be masters of their own land. China must not block Taiwan's attempts to gain international recognition or to return to international organizations. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated with respect by the international community.

Recently, President Chen proposed to prudently think over abolishing all ad hoc institutions under the Office of the President that were not established by law. One of those programs, the National Unification Commission (NUC), has long had its effectiveness in question and he doesn't want to see unification become the only option for the cross-strait relations.

President Chen is a man of peace who has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait on many occasions. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. It is my hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resuming dialogue on equal footing and without pre-conditions.

APPRECIATING SOUTH KOREA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, three years ago it was my privilege to lead a bipartisan delegation of my colleagues to the Korean Peninsula. At the time, we had a rare opportunity to visit Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, as well as Seoul, the capital of South Korea, which I have had the pleasure of visiting on more than one occasion. During that trip, we gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the security challenges we face in Northeast Asia and the particular challenges faced by the Republic of Korea. Our delegation made a return trip to North Korea in January 2005.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the seldom noted fact that our close friend and staunch ally, the Republic of Korea, has contributed the largest contingent