

13-0002-5116

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Marines served their country during World War II by performing the hazardous duty of transporting troops, food, equipment, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war; and

WHEREAS, it has been said that the World War II Merchant Marines suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of service and whose chance of dying during service was extremely high; and

WHEREAS, a great injustice was imposed upon the World War II Merchant Mariners in that those who survived the war were denied veteran's benefits under the G.1. Bill of Rights that was enacted by Congress in 1945, and the contributions to the war effort of these brave veterans were not officially recognized until 1988, when Congress passed the Seaman Acts, which provided some benefits to the World War II Merchant Mariners but still did not provide veteran's status for purposes of calculating Social Security benefits as was granted to World War II veterans of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Janice Hahn of California has introduced H.R. 1936, which would provide a tax-exempt, monthly benefit of \$1,000 to each honorably discharged, eligible World War II Merchant Mariner veteran or surviving spouse; a veteran's burial and cemetery benefits; and veteran's benefits under the Social Security Act;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of H.R. 1936 (Hahn), the "Honoring Our Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2013," which would provide benefits to individuals who served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II and who were unjustly excluded from eligibility for benefits under the G.1. Bill of Rights.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

ORIGINAL

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