

A Resolution concerning the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007”

April 4, 2008

Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies
Linthicum, Maryland

WHEREAS, the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America is the professional association of Catholic Mariners and the official Roman Catholic organization for Cruise Ship Priests and Catholic Maritime Ministers in the United States;

WHEREAS, the World War II U.S. Merchant Marine made victory possible by being the *First to go into Action* with 243 Killed in Action prior to Pearl Harbor and amongst the first Prisoners of War and were also the *Last to Return* with 54 ships damaged by mines with in theater loss of life after V-E and V-J Day;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners suffered the *Highest Casualty Rate* with 1 in 26 Killed in Action to include 1,500 ships sunk, 9,300 mariners killed, and 12,000 wounded;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Merchant Mariners *Delivered the Men and Material* that made victory possible, participating in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa; and *Manned the Ships* by being recruited and trained by the U.S. Maritime Service, increasing from 55,000 to a wartime high of 250,000 seamen;

WHEREAS, U.S. Merchant Mariners were *Denied Veteran Benefits* to include unemployment, education, home or small business loans, priority of postwar jobs and medical care for disabilities; and *Struggled for Veteran Status* and finally received veterans status in 1988, over 40 years after the end of the war;

WHEREAS, the State of Pennsylvania has recently passed regulations rewarding surviving merchant mariners of World War II;

WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Bob Filner (D-CA) and 248 others have cosponsored House Resolution 23, and 35 other have cosponsored Senate Resolution 1272 of the 109th Congress to amend Title 46, United States Code, and Title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; AND

WHEREAS, this Act may also be cited as the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007”; and this Act provides \$1,000 per month to WWII mariners in lieu of benefits not received after World War II. The Bill also gives Social Security credit for time served in the merchant marine, like the credit given to others who served in the Army or Navy; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOS USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference wishes to express its thanks to the United States House of Representatives for passing HR 23 on July 30, 2007, and calls upon the United States Senate to bring to the floor its companion bill S. 961 of the 110th Congress and pass the “Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007.”