

THANKS AND APPRECIATION OF THE CONGRESS FOR THE  
HEROIC SERVICES OF OFFICERS AND CREWS OF STEAMSHIP  
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT" AND FOUR OTHERS

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MARCH 3 (calendar day, MARCH 4), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. JONES of Washington, from the Committee on Commerce,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 11]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 11) to tender the thanks and appreciation of the Congress of the United States for heroic service rendered by the officers and crews of the steamships *President Roosevelt*, *President Harding*, *American Trader*, *Republic*, and *Cameronia*, have considered the same and report thereon with amendments, and as, so amended, recommend that the bill do pass.

The resolution thus amended has the approval of the Treasury Department, as will appear by the annexed communication; the amendments referred to therein having been incorporated in the bill as reported.

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the term "crew" as used in this act shall mean and include any person carried on the ship's register or serving on the ship in any capacity, regardless of rank or rating, at the time of the rescue referred to in this act.

SEC. 2. That the thanks and appreciation of the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby, tendered to the families of Uno Wirtenan and Fritz Steger who lost their lives, and to the officers and crew of the United States steamship *President Roosevelt* as constituted on January 24 to 28, 1926, inclusive, for the heroic conduct shown and noble service rendered in the rescue of the officers and crew of the British steamship *Antinoe*; to the officers and crew of the United States steamship *President Harding* as constituted on October 25, 1925, for the heroic conduct shown and noble service rendered in the rescue of the officers and crew of the Italian steamship *Ignacio Florio*; to the officers and crew of the steamship *American Trader*, of the American Merchant Line, as constituted on October 26, 1925, for the heroic conduct shown and noble service rendered in the rescue of the officers and crew of the Norwegian steamship *Elven*; to the officers and crew of the United States steamship *Republic* as constituted October 10, 1925, for the heroic conduct and noble service rendered in the rescue of the officers and crew of the United States patrol boat Numbered 134; and to the officers and crew of the British steamship *Cameronia* as constituted

on October 11, 1925, for the heroic conduct and noble service rendered in the rescue of the crew of the United States Coast Guard patrol boat Numbered 128.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the United States Mint be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to prepare a suitable die and to strike suitable gold medals commemorating the heroic conduct and noble services rendered in the rescues described in section 2 of this act, and present, in evidence of the esteem of the Nation for valorous conduct on the high seas in the face of great danger as demonstrated in such rescues, one of such medals to the captain of each of said rescuing ships, and one to each person certified by the captain of the respective rescuing ships to have shown special courage and to have faced special danger in such rescues, and one to each of the families of Uno Wirtenan and Fritz Steger.

SEC. 4. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated from moneys in the Treasury, not other appropriated, the sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to cover the cost of designing, producing, and distributing said medals in the manner described in this act.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution recognizing the heroic conduct, devotion to duty, and skill on the part of the officers and crews of the United States steamships *Republic*, *American Trader*, *President Roosevelt*, *President Harding*, and the British steamship *Cameronia*, and for other purposes."

The communication of the Secretary of the Treasury, above referred to, is as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, February 20, 1926.

Hon. W. L. JONES,  
Chairman Committee on Commerce,  
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR JONES: I have your letter of February 17 inclosing S. 3154, a bill "Recognizing the heroic conduct, devotion to duty, and skill on the part of the officers and crews of the United States steamships *Republic*, *American Trader*, *President Roosevelt*, *President Harding*, and the British steamship *Cameronia*, and for other purposes." This department is cordially in sympathy with the bill, and should its passage be effected the Director of the Mint will be instructed to utilize the facilities of the mint in producing the medal. The preparation of the die and the manufacture of the medals could be undertaken at the mint immediately upon the passage of the act.

The department has been informally advised that the number of persons carried on the register or serving on the ships named in the bill numbered 1,036. But inasmuch as the bill provides for the awarding of medals to the captain of each rescuing ship, and to each person certified by the captain to have shown special courage and to have faced special danger in such rescues, it is impossible to determine how many of these 1,036 would be awarded medals. The authorized life-saving medals in gold cost \$92 each. The medal proposed in this bill could be executed in a smaller size and in a lesser weight than the regularly authorized life-saving medal, and could possibly be reduced to one-half the size and weight. In view of the indeterminate number of medals to be awarded, however, and the size and weight of such medals, this department is unable to state whether the sum of \$5,000 proposed to be appropriated would be adequate for the purpose.

It is noted that to the families of the two seamen who lost their lives the bill contemplates expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Congress, while to the officers and crews of the vessels named in the bill, in addition to such expression of thanks and appreciation, provision is made for the presentation to them of suitable medals. It is suggested that this provision might be appropriately extended to include the presentation of medals also to the families of the two seamen who lost their lives.

Attention is invited to section 3 of the bill, lines 22 and 23, "That the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the Mint" be authorized to prepare and strike the medals proposed. It is suggested that in lieu of these words "the Secretary of the Treasury" be substituted. These dies and medals are prepared under the general direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and this amendment will conform with the usual practice in this regard.

Respectfully,

A. W. MELLON,  
Secretary of the Treasury.