

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**ITEM NO. 8.**

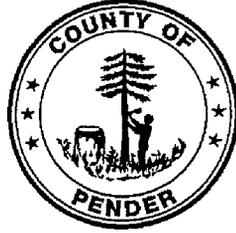
**DATE OF MEETING:** June 1, 2009

**REQUESTED BY:** Don Horton

**SHORT TITLE:** Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Supporting an Alternative Method of Recognition for Veterans Status to Merchant Marine Seamen of WW II

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Don Horton, a citizen of Camden, NC, has requested approval of this resolution. Other counties that have adopted the resolution include: Camden, Currituck, Duplin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Wilson.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** To adopt the attached resolution.



**RESOLUTION OF THE PENDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUPPORTING AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF RECOGNITION FOR VETERANS  
STATUS TO MERCHANT MARINE SEAMEN OF WW II**

**WHEREAS**, Public Laws 95-202 and 105-368 bestowed veteran status on US Merchant Marine Seamen of WWII; and

**WHEREAS**, two specific U.S. government actions by U.S. government have caused some 10,000 merchant seamen to have been denied their due recognition:

- (1) The USCG relieving Masters of tugs, towboats and seagoing barges of the responsibility submitting reports of seamen shipped and discharged and,
- (2) The National Maritime Administration ordered ship's logbooks to be destroyed because they were too costly to maintain had removed the two main criteria required by the government to issue official recognition to those seamen; and

**WHEREAS**, the average age of the remaining seamen is above 86 and the population of the US veteran is shrinking at an average of 850 per year causing time to be of the essence; and

**WHEREAS**, no costs are associated with this proposal as funds are already included in above public laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pender County Board of Commissioners therefore requests that immediate action be taken to correct this inconceivable action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pender County Board of Commissioners supports the attached proposal and so orders that this Resolution and attached proposal be sent to Senator Kay Hagan, Senator Richard Burr, Congressman Walter B. Jones and Congressman G.K. Butterfield, and this matter be placed into action to ensure expedient passage.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy, T. Tate, Chairman  
Pender County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board

**PROPOSAL**

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill No: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title: Alternative Methods of Recognition for Veteran Status to Merchant Marine Seamen of WW II**

Be It Enacted by the one hundred & eleventh Congress of the United States

1. **Preamble:** Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of  
2. America in congress assembled; Public Law 95-202 & 105-368 provided veteran status for members  
3. of the U.S Merchant Marine who served during WW II between 07 Dec, 1941 and 31 Dec, 1946 and  
4. who were able to prove their service. Various actions by governmental personnel have destroyed or  
5. caused these documents to be unavailable. These actions prohibit merchant marine veterans of  
6. WW II from receiving the recognition and benefits of veteran's status provided by these laws.  
7. Alternative methods to prove service are required, as just compensation, for records lost by  
8. government actions.

9. **SECTION 1:** Records held by the Social Security Administration that denote dates, wages earned and  
10. companies employed shall be utilized when USCG forms 718 (any date) or other official data such  
11. as ship's logbook, etc, are not available.

12. **SECTION 2:** Validated testimony from the veteran or the primary next of kin as to employment shall  
13. be allowed to determine eligibility; and

14. **SECTION 3:** Other official documentation offered by the veteran, shall constitute replacement of  
15. records that were destroyed or from other actions causing the required records to be unavailable  
16. that were committed by those responsible for the control and maintenance of veteran records.

17. **SECTION 4:** For the timeframe between 07 December, 1941 and 31 December, 1946, masters of  
18. seagoing vessels shall be recognized as agents of the United States authorized to document  
19. crew members as it applies to the shipping and discharge of seaman for purposes of employment.

20. **SECTION 5:** These replacements records shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during  
21. the required timeframe 07 December, 1941 and 31 December, 1946.

22. **SECTION 6:** This bill will go into effect 91 days after passage.