

SENATE No. 2688

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to properly recognize merchant marine veterans.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Roger E. Mercaldi, Jr.</i>	<i>6 Wells Avenue, Georgetown, MA 01833</i>	
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampden</i>	<i>10/17/2023</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>10/17/2023</i>
<i>Kristin E. Kassner</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>10/18/2023</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>10/23/2023</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>	<i>10/23/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/24/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>10/25/2023</i>

<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>10/25/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>10/25/2023</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>10/25/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>10/25/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>11/1/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>11/22/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2688

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Roger E. Mercaldi, Jr., Ryan C. Fattman, Kathleen R. LaNatra and others for legislation to properly recognize merchant marine veterans. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to properly recognize merchant marine veterans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the general laws as appearing in the 2022 official edition is
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 15ZZZZZZ the following new section:-

3 15AAAAAAA. The governor shall set apart June 12th as United States Merchant Marine
4 Day in recognition of the birthday of the Merchant Marine on June 12, 1775, and in recognition
5 of its distinguished history shall issue a proclamation recommending that the day be observed by
6 the people in the display of the flag and in appropriate public exercises, commemorative of the
7 services and sacrifices of the citizens of the commonwealth who have served and continue to
8 serve in the U.S. merchant marine in defense of the United States

9 SECTION 2. (a) Section 9 of Chapter 115 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is
10 hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following: -

11 “In cemeteries containing the remains of veterans which contain a display of flags
12 representing branches of United States military services such displays shall include the service

13 flags of the following: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and
14 Merchant Marine.”

15 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary the superintendent of the
16 state house shall install the flag of the United States Merchant Marine in memorial hall of the
17 state house.

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 33 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
19 is hereby amended by inserting after section 67B the following section: -

20 Section 67C. There shall be a Massachusetts Merchant Mariner medal to be presented to
21 a Merchant Mainer who served in an active war zone. In order to be eligible a Merchant Mariner
22 must have been a resident of the commonwealth of Massachusetts during said service and must
23 have served after December 6, 1941. The requirements to receive the Massachusetts Merchant
24 Mariner medal shall be the same as set forth by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s
25 requirements for Merchant Marine Medals and Decorations as prescribed in 46 CFR 350.4.

26 There shall be a commission, henceforth called the Merchant Mariner Medal
27 Commission, comprised of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the commandant of the
28 Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and a Merchant Mariner, who shall be appointed by the
29 Governor from a list of 3 names provided by American Merchant Marine Association; further the
30 person appointed by the Governor shall have or have had an unlimited tonnage or any
31 horsepower USCG license. The Commission shall design the Merchant Mariner Medal and make
32 recommendations to the commander-in-chief for the awarding of the Massachusetts Merchant
33 Mariner Medal.