

SENATE No.

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 Massachusetts merchant mariners, living and deceased, who served in an active war zone.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2688 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to properly recognize Massachusetts merchant mariners, living and deceased, who served in an active war zone.

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

3 “In cemeteries containing the remains of veterans which contain a display of flags
4 representing branches of United States military services such displays shall include the service
5 flags of the following: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, and
6 Merchant Marine.”

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

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 33 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,
11 is hereby amended by inserting after section 67B the following section: -

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

18 There shall be a commission, henceforth called the Merchant Mariner Medal
19 Commission, comprised of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the commandant of the
20 Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and a Merchant Mariner, who shall be appointed by the
21 Governor from a list of 3 names provided by American Merchant Marine Association; further the
22 person appointed by the Governor shall have or have had an unlimited tonnage or any
23 horsepower USCG license. The Commission shall design the Merchant Mariner Medal and make
24 recommendations to the commander-in-chief for the awarding of the Massachusetts Merchant
25 Mariner Medal.