



Rep. Jerry McNerney
Extension of Remarks
5/22/2007

Celebrating the 75th Annual National Maritime Day, and Honoring the Contributions of Merchant Mariners in Times of Peace and War.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the brave men and women who have served this country, in peace and in war, as Merchant Mariners. The United States Merchant Mariners have supported and served alongside our Armed Forces in every major seafaring conflict since the birth of this nation.

In times of peace, Mariners make the seas their home, transporting American goods all over the world and bolstering our national economy. In times of war, from the Revolutionary War to the conflicts today in the Middle East, Merchant Mariners have served as a lifeline to our international military operations, transporting troops, equipment, and needed supplies to theaters of operation.

The dedication and sacrifice of our Merchant Mariners is unassailable. Despite higher casualty rates than any branch of regular military service in World War II, Merchant Mariners have continued to answer the call to war with unflinching patriotism and valor.

Today, National Maritime Day, we should take time to reflect on the devotion of all our Merchant Mariners and the deep and lasting debt owed them by a grateful nation.

Therefore, it is with great pride that I honor the service and sacrifice that the brave men and women of the United States Merchant Marine exemplify, on this, the seventy-fifth celebration of National Maritime Day.