

By: Keel

H.R. No. 731

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of the United States are profoundly
2 indebted to the members of the U.S. Navy Armed Guard (NAG), whose
3 valiant efforts and self-sacrifice played a crucial role in the
4 Allied victory during World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, Established during World War I and deactivated at
6 the end of that conflict, the NAG was reactivated by the U.S.
7 Congress in November 1941; over the next four years, guardsmen were
8 assigned primarily to merchant cargo ships and troop transports, to
9 protect them in theaters of war throughout the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The duty assumed by the armed guard was a highly
11 perilous one; ships leaving U.S. ports became vulnerable to attack
12 as soon as they cleared the torpedo nets, and many were sunk in
13 sight of the U.S. coastline; during their voyages, convoys were
14 endangered by U-boat wolf packs, enemy aircraft, surface warships,
15 and mines; and

16 WHEREAS, The Murmansk run was among the most challenging and
17 most vital assignments undertaken by the NAG; the only effective
18 way the Allies could get critical supplies to the Russian Army was
19 through the ports of Archangel and Murmansk, and the journey
20 through the Arctic Ocean often meant facing ferocious storms as
21 well as German planes, ships, and submarines; nearly half of the
22 more than 800 ships making the Murmansk run flew the American flag,
23 and the material they delivered was instrumental in helping the
24 Soviets turn back the German Army; and

1 WHEREAS, Before the NAG was deactivated again at the end of
2 the war, approximately 144,000 personnel had served in its ranks;
3 they sailed on an estimated 6,230 merchant ships, 710 of which were
4 sunk by enemy action; in addition to numerous citations accorded
5 guardsmen for heroism, five U.S. destroyer escorts bear the names
6 of guardsmen who gave their lives in battle; and

7 WHEREAS, Through their courageous efforts to safeguard the
8 transport of troops and essential supplies during the Second World
9 War, members of the NAG demonstrated unfaltering devotion to duty,
10 honor, and the cause of liberty, and their actions are deserving of
11 their fellow citizens' deepest pride and gratitude; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor all who served during World War II in the
15 U.S. Navy Armed Guard, for their unflinching valor in that terrible
16 struggle helped to secure freedom at home and over much of the
17 world.