



HR1032

LRB098 21019 GRL 58715 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor James Pfafflin for his service to
4 his country in the United States Merchant Marine from 1944 to
5 1948; and

6 WHEREAS, During World War II, the ships and men of the
7 United States Merchant Marine transported across the oceans of
8 the world the vast quantities of war materiel, supplies,
9 equipment, and troops needed to fight and win the war; the men
10 of the United States Merchant Marine were civilian volunteers
11 who nonetheless died proportionally in numbers that rivaled or
12 exceeded any branch of the uniformed military; like the United
13 States Navy Armed Guard with whom they sailed, the unsung men
14 of the United States Merchant Marine made possible the Allied
15 victory in World War II; and

16 WHEREAS, During World War II, United States Merchant Marine
17 ships faced danger from submarines, mines, armed raiders and
18 destroyers, aircraft, "kamikaze", and the elements; about
19 8,300 mariners were killed at sea, 12,000 were wounded, of whom
20 at least 1,100 died from their wounds, and 663 men and women
21 were taken prisoner; one in 26 mariners serving aboard merchant
22 ships in World War II died in the line of duty, suffering a
23 greater percentage of war-related deaths than all other United

1 States services; casualties were kept secret during the war to
2 keep information about their success from the enemy; and

3 WHEREAS, James Pfafflin's first voyage with the United
4 States Merchant Marine was on a ship that left out of San
5 Francisco; the ships brought barrels of gasoline to small
6 islands in the Pacific that couldn't store it, allowing planes
7 that landed on the island to fuel up; the ships also brought
8 blankets, food, and other supplies to people on the islands;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, James Pfafflin serves as a model of hard work,
11 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
12 Illinois; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we honor James Pfafflin for his service to his country in the
16 United States Merchant Marine; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to James Pfafflin as a symbol of our esteem and
19 respect.