

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 8-9, 2003**

Resolution No. 3: The Merchant Marine Flag

Origin: 2003 NC Resolution No. 122 (SD)

Submitted by: National Security Commission

As Amended

WHEREAS, A January 9, 1988 decision of the Secretary of the Air Force granted veteran status, not just veterans benefits, to its members of the Merchant Marine and certain employees of the Army and Navy during the period December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Affected individuals may apply for a discharge or Certificate of Release and can be issued a DD Form 214 record of service will be issued which will show service with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard depending upon the service of the individual; and

WHEREAS, These individuals are eligible for membership in The American Legion since the DD Form 214 will show these Merchant Mariners as an auxiliary component of one of the Armed Forces (e.g., Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force or Marine Corps); and

WHEREAS, The Mount Rushmore Memorial Park in South Dakota has displayed the Merchant Marine flag, along with all the other Service Flags of the United States, since 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Merchant Marine flag is now displayed at the South Dakota World War II Memorial on the State Capital grounds; and

WHEREAS, Fort Randall Castle American Legion Post Nr. 282, Department of South Dakota is now displaying the Merchant Marine flag, along with other service flags of the United States, at their veterans memorial in Pickstown, South Dakota; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 8-9, 2003, That the commemorative Merchant Marine Flag be included as one of the official United States Auxiliary Service Flags; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall take steps to have the Merchant Marine flag included in all National Displays as an official United States Auxiliary Service Flag and to fly beside other Service flags of the Armed Forces as appropriate and in accordance with accepted protocol.