

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1987
OFFERED BY MS. HAHN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V add the following:

1 **SEC. 5** ____ . **MERCHANT MARINER EQUITY COMPENSATION**
2 **FUND.**

3 (a) **COMPENSATION FUND.**—(1) There is in the gen-
4 eral fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the “Mer-
5 chant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund” (in this sec-
6 tion referred to as the “compensation fund”).

7 (2) Subject to the availability of appropriations for
8 such purpose, amounts in the compensation fund shall be
9 available to the Secretary of the department in which the
10 Coast Guard is operating without fiscal year limitation to
11 make payments to eligible individuals in accordance with
12 this section.

13 (b) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**—(1) An eligible indi-
14 vidual is an individual who—

15 (A) during the one-year period beginning on the
16 date of the enactment of this section, submits to the
17 Secretary an application containing such information
18 and assurances as the Secretary may require;

1 (B) has not received benefits under the Service-
2 men's Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-
3 346); and

4 (C) has engaged in qualified service.

5 (2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has en-
6 gaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941,
7 and December 31, 1946, the person—

8 (A) was a member of the United States mer-
9 chant marine (including the Army Transport Service
10 and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crew-
11 member of a vessel that was—

12 (i) operated by the War Shipping Adminis-
13 tration or the Office of Defense Transportation
14 (or an agent of the Administration or Office);

15 (ii) operated in waters other than inland
16 waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays,
17 and harbors of the United States;

18 (iii) under contract or charter to, or prop-
19 erty of, the Government of the United States;
20 and

21 (iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

22 (B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise
23 documented for service as a crewmember of such a
24 vessel by an officer or employee of the United States

1 authorized to license or document the person for
2 such service.

3 (3) In determining the information and assurances
4 required in the application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A),
5 the Secretary shall accept a DD-214 form as proof of
6 qualified service.

7 (c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall
8 make one payment out of the compensation fund in the
9 amount of \$25,000 to an eligible individual. The Secretary
10 shall make such a payment to eligible individuals in the
11 order in which the Secretary receives the applications of
12 the eligible individuals.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
14 tion to the other amounts authorized by this Act, there
15 is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016
16 \$125,000,000 for the compensation fund. Such amount
17 shall remain available until expended.

18 (e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in docu-
19 ments submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support
20 of the President's budget for each fiscal year, detailed in-
21 formation on the operation of the compensation fund, in-
22 cluding the number of applicants, the number of eligible
23 individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the
24 compensation fund, the administration of the compensa-
25 tion fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to

1 fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and
2 each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

3 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
5 prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

