

Member Christian Yuh as penned the following letter promoting recognition for WWII mariners. Please feel free to adopt any or all of the following letter for your own communication to the White House and Congress. A page on the Navy League website will help you send your letter to Capitol Hill.

Visit: www.votervoic e.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59995/Respond

Dear President Trump, Vice President Pence and all Members of Congress representing the United States of America,

I stand for the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV), an organization dedicated to recognizing the patriotic contributions U.S. merchant mariners have made in all wars, in service to our Nation. The U.S. Merchant Marine supports our country both in Peace and in War.

As a nation dedicated to recognizing and caring for those who serve, and those who have served, we applaud the significant advances made in Veteran Services by your administration. You have identified and acted upon extremely important issues such as making improvements in veteran's healthcare, assisting them in making the transition from active service to civilian life as well as recognizing and supporting returning Veterans that suffer from PTSD and other mental health risks. Our 115th Congress has worked together on signing legislation into law supporting Veterans Continuing Education, ensuring their financial protections and providing for the continued recognition of those who have served our nation so admirably.

I am writing to you in support of a group of unsung heroes who nobly served our country in World War II, the American Merchant Marine. These courageous men operated the ships that transported critical supplies to the front lines during the war and were often the target of enemy forces. Indeed 1 out of every 26 casualties of WW2 was a merchant mariner, the highest casualty rate of any branch of the military. Of the 250,000 Merchant Mariners recruited for the war effort, today less than 2,000 remain alive.

Our remaining WW2 Merchant Marine Veterans dream of a "thank you" from our country. America would not be the same today without their valiant service of yesterday. As these remaining men approach the end of their life, many also struggle financially.

Mr. President, I ask you, as well as our Vice President and all of the Members of Congress to consider what can be done to properly honor these heroes before their time runs out. Two bills are currently before the 115th Congress, H.R. 5879 which

would recognize the remaining Merchant Mariners of WW2 with a Congressional Gold Medal, and H.R. 154 which would honor them by setting up a monetary fund to provide modest benefits to them as their heroic lives come to a close. Both bills will expire when Congress comes to a close at the end of this year.

Please consider how we, as a grateful nation, can honor these unsung heroes of WWII, the Merchant Marine. There are many ways that this “thank you” can occur, and your leadership as has been the case with other VA matters may craft a solution!

Mr. President, my heartfelt wishes go out to you and your family for a joyful holiday season. I also extend these same wishes to you, Mr. Pence and to all the Members of our 115th Congress who selflessly serve these great United States of America. My best wishes to all of your families and loved ones.

Christian Yuhas

U.S. Merchant Marine Engineer

Vice President of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV)