

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3887

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to convey the vessel USS SPHINX to the Rio Grande Military Museum for use as a military museum.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1994

Mr. ORTIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to convey the vessel USS SPHINX to the Rio Grande Military Museum for use as a military museum.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO CONVEY VESSEL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law,
5 the Secretary of Transportation may convey the right,
6 title, and interest of the United States Government in and
7 to the vessel USS SPHINX (ARL-24), to the Rio Grande
8 Military Museum (a not-for-profit corporation, hereinafter
9 in this Act referred to as the “recipient”) for use as a
10 military museum, if—

1 (1) the recipient agrees to use the vessel as a
2 nonprofit military museum;

3 (2) the vessel is not used for commercial trans-
4 portation purposes;

5 (3) the recipient agrees to make the vessel
6 available to the Government when the Secretary re-
7 quires use of the vessel by the Government;

8 (4) the recipient agrees that when the recipient
9 no longer requires the vessel for use as a military
10 museum—

11 (A) the recipient will at the discretion of
12 the Secretary, reconvey the vessel to the Gov-
13 ernment in good condition except for ordinary
14 wear and tear; or

15 (B) if the Board of Directors of the recipi-
16 ent has decided to dissolve the recipient accord-
17 ing to the laws of the State of Texas, then—

18 (i) the recipient shall distribute the
19 vessel, as an asset of the recipient, to a
20 person that has been determined exempt
21 from taxation under the provisions of sec-
22 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
23 Code, or to the Federal Government or a
24 State or local government for a public pur-
25 pose; and

1 (ii) the vessel shall be disposed of by
2 a court of competent jurisdiction of the
3 county in which the principal office of the
4 recipient is located, for such purposes as
5 the court shall determine, or to such orga-
6 nizations as the court shall determine are
7 organized exclusively for public purposes;

8 (5) the recipient agrees to hold the Government
9 harmless for any claims arising from exposure to as-
10 bestos after conveyance of the vessel, except for
11 claims arising from use by the Government under
12 paragraph (3) or (4); and

13 (6) the recipient has available, for use to re-
14 store the vessel, in the form of cash, liquid assets,
15 or a written loan commitment, financial resources of
16 at least \$100,000.

17 (b) DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—If a conveyance is made
18 under this Act, the Secretary shall deliver the vessel at
19 the place where the vessel is located on the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act, in its present condition, without cost to
21 the Government.

22 (c) OTHER UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary
23 may also convey any unneeded equipment from other ves-
24 sels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in order to re-
25 store the USS SPHINX (ARL-24) to museum quality.

1 (d) RETENTION OF VESSEL IN NDRF.—The Sec-
2 retary shall retain in the National Defense Reserve Fleet
3 the vessel authorized to be conveyed under subsection (a),
4 until the earlier of—

5 (1) 2 years after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act; or

7 (2) the date of conveyance of the vessel under
8 subsection (a).

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