

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 152

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating Mystic Seaport: the Museum of
America and the Sea in recognition of its 75th
year.

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Whereas Mystic Seaport: the Museum of America and the Sea was founded as the Marine Historical Association on December 29, 1929, to preserve, protect, and honor the legacy of America's great maritime tradition and culture;

Whereas Mystic Seaport has grown into the largest, most diverse maritime museum, and the fourth largest history museum, in the Nation;

Whereas the mission of Mystic Seaport is to create a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of America's relationship to the sea and the impact of that relationship upon us as individuals and as a Nation;

Whereas the collections of Mystic Seaport include four National Historic Landmark vessels including the CHARLES W. MORGAN, the last wooden whaling ship in the world; the LA DUNTON, one of the few remaining fishing schooners of its era; the SABINO, one of the last coal-fired, steam ships still in operation; and the EMMA C. BERRY, an 1866 wooden fishing vessel;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also maintains the largest collection of watercraft in the nation with more than 500 vessels representing sail, oar, paddle and engine-powered boats spanning 2 centuries of history;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also features the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard as a live working facility that showcases and interprets the art of shipbuilding and restoration, including the restoration of its iconic National Historic Landmark vessels;

Whereas Mystic Seaport put the Preservation Shipyard to its highest and best use in replicating the schooner AMISTAD in full public view, demonstrating its claim that Mystic Seaport is the only museum in the world that can build a large wooden vessel from the keel up and launch it as part of a comprehensive museum experience;

Whereas the Collections Research Center of Mystic Seaport houses 75,000 maritime artifacts, more than one million photographs, and 1.5 million feet of film, and is a dynamic national maritime research facility;

Whereas the G.W. Blunt White Library is one of the largest and most thoroughly catalogued and accessible collections of marine and maritime research material in the world;

Whereas Mystic Seaport also features a representative 19th-century New England coastal village featuring skilled tradesmen and live interpretation to engage, educate, and entertain its visitors;

Whereas Mystic Seaport maintains educational and outreach programs for all levels including accredited graduate and undergraduate programs through the Munson Institute and Williams-Mystic, the cooperative Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport;

Whereas Mystic Seaport continues to attract more than 300,000 visitors each year and millions of other individuals through its interactive internet web site, demonstrating its role as a vital cultural and educational center;

Whereas more than 1,500 volunteers each year assist 300 professional and support staff in preserving and interpreting the collections of the Mystic Seaport and in delivering its unique programs; and

Whereas Mystic Seaport has recently completed a comprehensive self-study and a strategic program and master plan, and has recommitted itself to its mission with an effort to strengthen its endowment and make its programs more cohesive and compelling: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) commemorates Mystic Seaport: the Museum
4 of America and the Sea in recognition of its 75th

1 year and commends the staff, volunteers, and trust-
2 ees of the Museum and encourages them in their ef-
3 forts to create greater awareness of America's rela-
4 tionship to the sea and the profound impact of mari-
5 time transportation and commerce upon our Na-
6 tion's economic growth;

7 (2) supports Mystic Seaport's presentation of
8 our Nation's Merchant Mariners and shipbuilders
9 whose efforts promoted the expansion of maritime
10 transportation and commerce;

11 (3) asks all Americans to join in celebrating
12 this milestone for Mystic Seaport and its mission of
13 preserving and interpreting the legacy of American
14 maritime transportation and tradition; and

15 (4) encourages Mystic Seaport in its efforts to
16 secure the future of its collections and programs and
17 supports its efforts to make those programs even
18 more compelling and engaging.

Passed the House of Representatives June 27, 2005.

Attest:

Clerk.