

Senate Joint Memorial 10

Sponsored by Senator ROBINSON; Senators ANDERSON, BONHAM, BROADMAN, FREDERICK, GELSER, BLOUIN, GOLDEN, HAYDEN, LINTHICUM, MCLANE, MEEK, NASH, REYNOLDS, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, STARR, THATCHER, WEBER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Asks the President, the MARAD and Congress to buy a certain ship, make it an official U.S. landmark, fix it up and call it the official flagship of the U.S. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7). Urges the President of the United States, the Executive Director of the Maritime Administration of the United States Department of Transportation and the Congress of the United States to purchase the SS United States from Okaloosa County, Florida, designate it as a National Historic Landmark, restore it to its full working condition and name it the official flagship of our nation.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States, the Executive Director of the Maritime Administration of the United States Department of Transportation and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the SS United States, built in 1950 and 1951, was the flagship of the United States Lines and is known with deep affection as "America's Flagship"; and

Whereas as of 2025, the SS United States holds the Blue Riband award for the highest average speed crossing the Atlantic Ocean in either direction, a record she set on her maiden voyage in July 1952; and

Whereas the SS United States was designed by American naval architect William Francis Gibbs following the conclusion of World War II, during which conflict Gibbs and his company had designed more than 70 percent of all American ships deployed; and

Whereas at 990 feet in length, the SS United States is the largest ocean liner ever built entirely in this country; and

Whereas the SS United States is one of the most graceful ships ever constructed and remains one of our nation's finest engineering marvels, with groundbreaking innovations in steam propulsion, hull form, fire safety and damage control; and

Whereas aside from the RMS Queen Mary, which has been permanently moored in Long Beach, California, since December 1967, the SS United States is the only ocean liner still afloat that retains the evocative multi-stack look associated with the most renowned ocean liners in history, including such notable vessels as the RMS Titanic, the RMS Olympic, the RMS Lusitania and the SS Normandie; and

Whereas due to a lack of available funding to complete the restoration of the SS United States, this vital example of American ingenuity is currently in Mobile, Alabama, in preparation for being transported to Destin, Florida, where she is scheduled to be sunk off Florida's Gulf Coast and be-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 come part of the world's largest artificial reef; and

2 Whereas this would be a tragic loss to our nation and its great history, forever robbing future
3 generations of the chance to experience the SS United States in her full glory; now, therefore,

4 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

5 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the President
6 of the United States, the Maritime Administration of the United States Department of Transporta-
7 tion and the Congress of the United States to purchase the SS United States from Okaloosa County,
8 Florida, designate it as a National Historic Landmark, restore it to its full working condition and
9 name it the official flagship of our nation; and be it further

10 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
11 the Executive Director of the Maritime Administration of the United States Department of Trans-
12 portation, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to
13 each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

14
