

House Resolution 903

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, and Belton of the 112th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Captain Thomas J. Taylor; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of Captain Thomas J. Taylor, the father
3 of Georgia State Representative Tom Taylor, on August 31, 2014; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy
5 in Kings Point, New York, in 1958; during his cadet year at Kings Point, he spent the year
6 sailing on the SS United States; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the first year after graduation, he worked as a civilian employee of the
8 Department of the Navy, running troop ships into Germany and delivering the Turkish
9 United Nations contingent to Korea; he then went to work for Gulf Oil, where he spent the
10 next 24 years as Captain and Master for several oil tankers, including the Gulf Supertanker,
11 American Independence; and
- 12 WHEREAS, during his time as Master of the American Independence, his son, Georgia State
13 Representative Tom Taylor, was on active duty in the United States Navy; in 1981, their
14 ships crossed paths near Korea, and they were able to meet and spend some time visiting
15 together; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor retired from sea in 1990, with a spotless record of no incidents
17 with any ship he was commanding, and spent the next several years running yachts and
18 managing the marinas at the Boca Raton Resort and at Bahia Mar, the largest marina of the
19 East Coast; during this time, Captain Taylor also served as an expert witness in several court
20 cases involving Maritime standard and law; and
- 21 WHEREAS, in 1998, Captain Taylor received the Silver Mariner Award from the U.S.
22 Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association; the Silver Mariner Award is given every

23 five years to individuals who have attained and sailed on their Master's license and who have
24 at least 25 continuous years of sailing experience; and

25 WHEREAS, even in his retirement, he was an avid supporter of the Merchant Mariners,
26 especially those who served in WWII and were never recognized as "combat veterans"; and

27 WHEREAS, Captain Taylor was united in love and marriage to Karen Taylor and was
28 blessed with two remarkable children, son, Representative Tom Taylor and daughter, Eileen;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
31 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
32 made this world a better place in which to live; and

33 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Captain Thomas J. Taylor will long be
34 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal father and friend will be
35 missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Captain Thomas J. Taylor
38 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 family of Captain Thomas J. Taylor.