

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 315

Commending the service of Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutters and the officers and crew who served on them.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2021

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commending the service of Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutters and the officers and crew who served on them.

Whereas the first Hamilton-class cutter was the United States Coast Guard Cutter (referred to in this preamble as “USCGC”) Hamilton, which was placed in full commission on March 18, 1967;

Whereas USCGC Mellon, USCGC Chase, USCGC Dallas, USCGC Boutwell, USCGC Sherman, USCGC Gallatin, USCGC Morgenthau, USCGC Rush, USCGC Munro, USCGC Midgett, and USCGC Jarvis completed the class of high endurance cutters and were 1 of the most highly

versatile and capable vessels at the time of their construction at Avondale Shipyards in Louisiana;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters courageously supported multiple peacetime and wartime operations during their time in active service, including Operation Market Time, Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Vigilant Sentinel, Operation Deny Flight, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters conducted illegal narcotics interdictions totaling 3,300,000 pounds and \$23,600,000,000 in market value, including the interdiction conducted by USCGC Hamilton and USCGC Sherman of the M/V Gatun, which discovered 20 metric tons of illegal narcotics with an estimated street value of \$600,000,000 for the largest narcotics interdiction in United States history at the time;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters have saved thousands of lives during search and rescue operations at sea, including the rescue conducted by USCGC Boutwell and USCGC Mellon of all 520 passengers and crew of the M/S Prinsendam, 1 of the largest at-sea rescues in Coast Guard history;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters received excellent shoreside support at Coast Guard homeports in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, and Washington, allowing the cutters to perform admirably past their service life;

Whereas the Mississippi-built National Security Cutter replaced the Hamilton-class cutter to continue the storied success of high endurance Coast Guard cutters at sea;

Whereas USCGC Douglas Munro, formerly known as USCGC Munro, decommissioned on April 24, 2021, end-

ing over 54 years of service of Hamilton-class cutters to the United States;

Whereas Coast Guard cutters remain a vital component of United States capability across the globe in serving to protect life at sea, deterring illicit activity, and ensuring the continuance of the international rules-based order at all levels of the competition continuum;

Whereas the increasing global complexity and expanding demand for Coast Guard services necessitates the best people, modern technology, resilient infrastructure, and highly capable assets; and

Whereas Congress must recognize the importance of maximizing afloat readiness for the Coast Guard by supporting personnel, investing in mission-enabling technologies, and modernizing assets: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the success of the Hamilton-class
3 cutters in service to the United States;

4 (2) commends the officers and crew of Ham-
5 ilton-class cutters for their technical excellence, ac-
6 complishments, professionalism, and sacrifices;

7 (3) supports the role of Coast Guard cutters
8 and their importance to national security, law en-
9 forcement at sea, and homeland defense; and

10 (4) applauds the Coast Guard for continuing to
11 advance the capabilities of the fleet with the Na-

- 1 tional Security Cutter to adapt to the growing need
- 2 for a global Coast Guard presence.

