

SR-64, As Adopted by Senate, June 18, 2009

Senator Basham offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 64.

A resolution commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Whereas, The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has served as the unpaid volunteer uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard since its creation by Congress on June 23, 1939, and more recently, as the lead volunteer force in the Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas, Each year, the 30,000 volunteer men and women of the Auxiliary nationwide save almost 500 lives, assist some 15,000 boaters in distress, conduct more than 150,000 courtesy safety examinations of recreational vessels, and teach over 500,000 students in boating and water safety courses; and

Whereas, The Auxiliary, with its traditional boating safety mission, can be found on Michigan waterways, in the air, in classrooms, and on the dock assisting the U.S. Coast Guard by providing the boating public with the hundreds of hours each year in boating safety education courses and vessel safety checks, which directly contribute to the prevention of countless search and rescue cases and ultimately save lives; and

Whereas, There has been an increased need for the Auxiliary to "fill the gaps" in terms of safety and security patrols in and around large ports and critical infrastructure following the events of September 11, 2001, and as the U.S. Coast Guard continues to deploy assets overseas to assist with military operations in the Mideast; and

Whereas, Auxiliary members have been incorporated into the U.S. Coast Guard's port, waterways, and security missions, including Maritime Domain Awareness and the American Waterway Watch programs, as well as providing administrative and logistics support at venues ranging from medical clinics to Coast Guard training center classrooms, to foreign interpreter services aboard deployed cutters; and

Whereas, Auxiliary members are teaching thousands of Michigan recreational boaters as well as public and private stakeholders who live, work, and play around Michigan's waterfront how to properly identify and report suspicious maritime activity for the benefit of the nation's safety and security; and

Whereas, Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard said, "The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an extremely valuable asset to the Coast Guard, the Department of Homeland Security and our Nation"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby commemorate June 23, 2009, as Coast Guard Auxiliary Day in recognition of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's 70 years of dedicated service to our nation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Coast Guard Auxiliary's National Commodore, the Commodore of the Ninth Central Region, the Director of Auxiliary - Ninth District, and the President of the National Association of Commodores as evidence of our support, admiration, and commendation of their efforts.