



HR0577

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Thousands of boaters have gone to Lake Michigan from Illinois for recreation, research, and commerce on an annual basis for hundreds of years; and

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WHEREAS, Lake Michigan has a reputation as a very dangerous body of water; for those who have had to call a mayday, the United States Coast Guard has answered with assistance; and

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WHEREAS, The Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Chicago is responsible for executing the Coast Guard's Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Protection, and Commercial Vessel Safety missions under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security; and

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WHEREAS, These missions serve as the underpinnings of the Coast Guard's mission to ensure a safe, secure, and environmentally sound maritime domain that continues to promote recreation, as well as the free flow of commerce on Southern Lake Michigan, as well as the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Illinois River Watershed; and

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WHEREAS, MSU Chicago serves an active network of domestic and international maritime interests covering the Lake Michigan shorelines of Illinois and Indiana, as well as 177

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1 miles of the Illinois River System segmented by 7 locks and  
2 over 250 bridges; and

3 WHEREAS, The motto of the Marine Safety Unit Chicago is  
4 "Guardians of the Great Lakes"; and

5 WHEREAS, The Marine Safety Unit dispatched Petty Officer  
6 Justin Duggan and his crew out of Calumet Harbor to respond to  
7 a mayday distress call from a civilian fishing vessel that was  
8 taking on water; and

9 WHEREAS, The Marine Safety Unit was the first to arrive,  
10 saving pilot Kevin Nicholson, his passengers, and the vessel;  
11 the crew conducted themselves with professionalism, upholding  
12 the highest traditions for the United States Armed Forces and  
13 the United States Coast Guard; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 honor Petty Officer Justin Dugan and the crew of the United  
17 States Coast Guard vessel that responded to the distress call  
18 as models of professionalism for our public safety officers and  
19 emergency first responders; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we commend the Commander of the Marine  
21 Safety Unit Chicago for the professionalism and training of his

1 sailors, as was evident in the rescue mission conducted to save  
2 Kevin Nicholson, his passengers, and the vessel; and be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
5 presented to the Commander of the Marine Safety Unit Chicago,  
6 the Secretary of the United States Coast Guard, and USCG Petty  
7 Officer Justin Duggan and his crew.