Public Law 758  

AN ACT  

To amend subsection 3 (a) of the Act approved August 8, 1947, to authorize the sale of timber within the Tongass National Forest, Alaska.  

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection (a) of section 3 of the Act approved August 8, 1947 (61 Stat. 920), is hereby amended by striking out the period at the end of said subsection and inserting in lieu thereof a colon and the following: "Provided, That all receipts heretofore and hereafter received from the sale of such timber shall be subject to the provisions of the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260), as amended, and the Act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 843), as amended. If any claims of possessory rights to lands or timber within the exterior boundaries of the Tongass National Forest are determined to be valid, the Territory of Alaska shall pay to the United States 25 per centum of the moneys required to satisfy such claims; Provided, That the Territory shall not be required to pay to the United States any amount in excess of the total amount received by the Territory from the United States pursuant to the Act of March 23, 1908: Provided further, That such payments by the Territory to the United States shall, to the extent possible, be effected by deductions from the amounts otherwise payable to the Territory pursuant to such Act.".  

Approved July 24, 1956.

Public Law 759  

AN ACT  

To authorize medals and decorations for outstanding and meritorious conduct and service in the United States merchant marine, and for other purposes.  

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) the Secretary of Commerce is authorized, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to provide and award with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury: A merchant marine distinguished service medal to any person serving in the United States merchant marine who distinguishes himself by outstanding act, conduct, or valor beyond the line of duty, and a merchant marine meritorious service medal to any person serving in the United States merchant marine for meritorious act, conduct, or service in line of duty, but not of such outstanding character as would warrant an award of the distinguished service medal.  

(b) No more than one distinguished service medal or meritorious service medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for each succeeding act, conduct, or service justifying such an award, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the medal or ribbon. In case any person who so distinguishes himself or so acts or serves as to justify the award of a medal under this section dies before the award can be made to him, the award may be made and medal presented to such representatives of the deceased as the Secretary of Commerce deems proper.  

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to provide and issue, under such rules and regulations as he may from time to time prescribe, a distinctive service ribbon bar to each master, officer, or member of the crew of any United States ship who serves or has served after June 30, 1950, in any time of war, or national emergency pro-
claimed by the President or by Congress, or during an operation by
Armed Forces of the United States outside the continental United
States, for such period of time and in such area or under such condi-
tions of danger to life as the Secretary may set forth in regulations
issued hereunder. Such bars shall be provided at cost by the Secretary
or at reasonable prices by private persons when authorized for manu-
facture and sale by the Secretary. Whenever any bar presented under
the provisions of this section is lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for
use, without fault or neglect of the owner, such bar may be replaced
at cost by the Secretary or at reasonable prices by private persons
authorized by him.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to issue, with the
concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, a citation as public
evidence of deserved honor and distinction to any United States ship
or to any foreign ship which participates in outstanding or gallant
action in marine disasters or other emergencies for the purpose of
saving life or property. The Secretary of Commerce may award a
plaque to a ship so cited, and a replica of such plaque may be pre-
erved, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may pre-
scribe, as a permanent historic record. The Secretary of Commerce
may also award an appropriate citation ribbon bar to the master or
each person serving on board such ship at the time of the action for
which citation is made, as public evidence of such honor and distinc-
tion. Whenever such master or person would be entitled hereunder
to the award of an additional citation ribbon, a suitable device shall
be awarded, in lieu thereof, to be attached to the ribbon originally
awarded. In any case of a proposed award or citation to a foreign
ship or to a master or person serving aboard such ship, such award
or citation shall be subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of
State.

Sec. 4. The manufacture, sale, possession, or display of any insignia,
decoration, medal, device, or rosette thereof, or any colorable imita-
tion of any insignia, decoration, medal or device, or rosette, provided
for in this Act, or in any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this
Act, is prohibited, except as authorized by this Act or any rule or
regulation issued pursuant thereto. Whoever violates any provision
of this section shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $250 or by
imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

Sec. 5. (a) The following Acts of Congress are repealed effective
July 1, 1954:

(1) The Act entitled "To provide for the issuance of devices in rec-
ognition of the services of merchant sailors", approved May 10, 1943,
War, Appendix, secs. 753a–753f).

(2) The Act entitled "Providing for a medal for service in the
merchant marine during the present war", approved August 8, 1946

(3) The Act entitled "To provide reemployment rights for persons
who leave their positions to serve in the merchant marine, and for
other purposes", approved June 23, 1943, as amended (57 Stat. 182,
60 Stat. 906, 60 Stat. 945; U. S. C., title 50, War, Appendix, secs. 1471–
1475).

(b) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Acts of Congress in subsec-
tion (a) the Secretary of Commerce is authorized, under such rules
and regulations as he may from time to time prescribe to make replace-
ments at cost or permit replacements at reasonable prices by persons
authorized by him of the awards, medals, decorations, or other articles
issued under such Acts, if lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use,
without fault or neglect on the part of the owner.

Approved July 24, 1956.