

in the State of North Carolina which are situated within the present boundaries of the Marine Corps Aviation Base, Cherry Point, North Carolina: *Provided*, That in the event the area transferred pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall cease to be used for military purposes, it shall revert to its former national-forest status.

Approved December 17, 1943.

[CHAPTER 349]

AN ACT

December 17, 1943
[S. 1544]
[Public Law 204]

Authorizing the acquisition and conversion or construction of certain auxiliary vessels, landing craft, and district craft for the United States Navy, and for other purposes.

Navy.
Auxiliary vessels,
landing craft, and district craft.
Ante, pp. 92, 156.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to acquire and convert or to undertake the construction of two million five hundred thousand tons, or such portion thereof as may be directed by the President of auxiliary vessels and one million tons of landing craft and district craft, such auxiliary vessels, landing craft and district craft to be of such size, type, and design as the Secretary may consider best suited for the prosecution of the war, such vessels to be in addition to those heretofore authorized.

Appropriation authorized.
Post, p. 627.
Expenditures by Maritime Commission.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act: *Provided*, That no sums expended by the Maritime Commission from funds appropriated to it for the construction of vessels which are transferred to the Navy shall be reimbursed from naval appropriations, except to the extent of agreements existing on the effective date of this Act: *Provided further*, That vessels acquired by the Navy from the Maritime Commission without reimbursement shall not be disposed of except by return to the Maritime Commission.

Disposition of certain vessels.

Approved December 17, 1943.

[CHAPTER 366]

AN ACT

December 17, 1943
[H. R. 2080]
[Public Law 205]

To provide temporary additional pay for equipment maintenance for each carrier in Rural Mail Delivery Service.

Rural Mail Delivery Service.
Equipment maintenance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That each carrier in Rural Mail Delivery Service shall be paid for equipment maintenance a sum equal to 1 cent per mile per day for each mile or major fraction of a mile scheduled in addition to the 5 cents per mile per day for each mile or major fraction of a mile scheduled as now provided by law. Payments for the additional equipment maintenance as provided herein shall be at the same periods and in the same manner as payments for regular compensation to rural carriers.

Appropriation authorized.

SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Effective period.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its enactment, and shall terminate June 30, 1945, or such earlier date as the Congress may by concurrent resolution prescribe.

Approved December 17, 1943.

[CHAPTER 367]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the first airplane flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright.

December 17, 1943
[H. J. Res. 175]
[Public Law 206]

Whereas, on December 17, 1903, the first flight of a heavier than air machine was made by Wilbur and Orville Wright at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and

Whereas the fortieth anniversary of the first flight of a heavier than air machine will be commemorated on December 17, 1943: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Nation express its gratitude and respect for this signal and astounding contribution to the progress of the world on the fortieth anniversary thereof.

Fortieth anniversary of first airplane flight.

That an engrossed copy of this joint resolution be transmitted to Orville Wright, the surviving brother.

Approved December 17, 1943.

[CHAPTER 368]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the proper observance of the one hundred and fifty-second anniversary of the adoption of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights.

December 17, 1943
[H. J. Res. 186]
[Public Law 207]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the week of December 12 to 18, 1943, as Bill of Rights Week, calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on December 15, the actual anniversary, and inviting the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and prayer.

Bill of Rights Week.

Approved December 17, 1943.

[CHAPTER 371]

JOINT RESOLUTION

To extend the time limit for immunity.

December 20, 1943
[H. J. Res. 199]
[Public Law 208]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That effective as of December 7, 1943, all statutes, resolutions, laws, articles, and regulations, affecting the possible prosecution of any person or persons, military or civil, connected with the Pearl Harbor catastrophe of December 7, 1941, or involved in any other possible or apparent dereliction of duty, that operate to prevent the court martial or prosecution of any person or persons in military or civil capacity, involved in any matter in connection with the Pearl Harbor catastrophe of December 7, 1941, or involved in any other possible or apparent dereliction of duty, are hereby extended for a period of six months.

Pearl Harbor catastrophe.
Extension of time limit for immunity.

Approved December 20, 1943.