

PUBLIC LAWS OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES

Passed at the third session, which was begun and held at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday, the sixth day of December, 1920, and was adjourned without day on Friday, the fourth day of March, 1921.

WOODROW WILSON, President; THOMAS R. MARSHALL, Vice President; ALBERT B. CUMMINS, President of the Senate *pro tempore*; CHARLES CURTIS, Acting President of the Senate *pro tempore*, December 23 to 27, 1920, and February 15 and 16, 1921; FREDERICK H. GILLETT, Speaker of the House of Representatives; JOSEPH WALSH, Speaker of the House of Representatives *pro tempore*, December 23, 1920; JOHN Q. TILSON, Speaker of the House of Representatives *pro tempore*, January 24 and 25, 1921.

CHAP. 1.—Joint Resolution Authorizing payment of the salaries of officers and employees of Congress for December, 1920, on the twentieth day of said month.

December 16, 1920.
[H. J. Res. 407.]
[Pub. Res., No. 53.]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives are hereby authorized and directed to pay to the officers and employees of the Senate and House of Representatives, including the Capitol police, their respective salaries for the month of December, 1920, on the twentieth day of said month.

Congressional officers, etc., to be paid December salaries December 20, 1920.

Approved, December 16, 1920.

CHAP. 2.—An Act Establishing the liability of hotel proprietors and innkeepers in the District of Columbia.

December 21, 1920.
[H. R. 12887.]
[Public, No. 287.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever the proprietor of any hotel or inn in the District of Columbia shall provide in such hotel or inn a suitable safe or vault for the safekeeping of any money, jewelry, or other articles of value, other than wearing apparel, belonging to or in the custody of guests, and shall notify the guests thereof by keeping conspicuously posted in the office and on the inside of the entrance door of the sleeping rooms of said hotel or inn a notice printed in distinct English type, such proprietor shall not be liable for the loss of or injury to any such property by theft or otherwise sustained by any guest unless such guest has offered to deliver the same to such proprietor for custody in such safe or vault and such proprietor has omitted or refused to receive it and deposit it in such safe or vault and to give such guest a receipt therefor: *Provided*, That in no case shall such proprietor be liable for the loss or injury to property so deposited in an amount exceeding the sum of \$500, except by special contract in writing, stating the kind and value of property received, the kind and extent of the liability of said proprietor, and the reasonable consideration to be paid for such safekeeping, not in excess of the customary insurance charge or*

District of Columbia. Hotel keepers not liable to guests for money, etc., unless deposited in safe provided therefor.

Proviso.
Liability limited.

Articles guests may retain.

premium, and which said contract shall be signed by said guest and said proprietor or his clerk: *Provided further*, That nothing herein contained shall apply to such an amount of money and such jewelry or other articles of value as is usual, common, or prudent for guests to retain in their rooms.

Locking of rooms, etc.

SEC. 2. That whenever the proprietor of any hotel or inn shall keep posted in a conspicuous manner on the inside of the entrance door to the sleeping rooms of said hotel or inn a notice printed in distinct English type requiring the guests occupying said rooms to lock or bolt the door of said room and upon leaving said room to lock the door and deposit the key at the office, the proprietor shall not be liable for any baggage stolen from said room if it shall appear that said room was left by the guest unlocked or unbolted, or that the key was not so deposited at the office at the time of the loss of said baggage, unless the loss is directly or indirectly caused by or attributable to the proprietor or his employee or employees.

Approved, December 21, 1920.

Limitation of liability for baggage therein.

December 22, 1920.
[H. R. 13264.]
[Public, No. 288.]

CHAP. 3.—An Act To provide for the award of a medal of merit to the personnel of the merchant marine of the United States of America.

Medal of merit, merchant marine.
Awarded for distinguished service at sea during World War.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to present, but not in the name of Congress, a medal of merit of appropriate design with a bar and ribbon, together with a rosette or other device to be worn in lieu thereof, to any person who in the merchant marine of the United States between the 6th day of April, 1917, and the 11th day of November, 1918, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism or distinguished service at sea in the line of duty.

Only one issue to a person.

SEC. 2. That no more than one medal of merit shall be issued to any one person, but for each succeeding deed or service sufficient to justify the award of a medal, the President may award a suitable bar or other suitable emblem or insignia to be worn with the decoration and the corresponding rosette or other device.

Bar for subsequent deed.

Time limit for issuing.

SEC. 3. That, except as otherwise prescribed herein, no medal or bar or suitable emblem or insignia in lieu of said medal shall be issued to any person after three years from the passage of this Act, unless a specific statement or report distinctly setting forth the act or distinguished service and suggesting or recommending official recognition thereof shall have been made and substantiated at the time of the act or service or within three years after the passage of this Act.

Statement of service, etc., required.

Award in case of death.

SEC. 4. That in case an individual who shall distinguish himself dies before the making of the award to which he may be entitled, the award nevertheless may be made and the medal or bar or other emblem or insignia presented to such representative of the deceased as the President may designate.

Regulations, etc.

SEC. 5. The President is authorized to make from time to time any and all rules, regulations, and orders which he shall deem necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

Approved, December 22, 1920.

December 26, 1920.
[H. R. 7930.]
[Public, No. 289.]

CHAP. 4.—An Act To provide for the treatment in hospital of diseased alien seamen.

Alien seamen.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That alien seamen found on arrival in ports of the United States to be afflicted with any of the