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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4011

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Chapman, Lovick, J. Walsh, Kilduff,  
Tharinger, and Muri

Read first time 02/15/17. Referred to Committee on Community  
Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1            TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE COMMANDANT OF  
5 THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD:

6            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
8 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

9            WHEREAS, Machinery Technician Third Class Matthew E. Schlimme  
10 served in the United States Coast Guard from May 1993 until his  
11 tragic death in February 1997; and

12            WHEREAS, Petty Officer Schlimme was stationed at Cape May, New  
13 Jersey, Dubuque, Iowa, and La Push, Washington; and

14            WHEREAS, Coast Guard Station Quillayute River in La Push is  
15 responsible for the areas from Cape Alava to Queets River, including  
16 the treacherous inlet at the mouth of the Quillayute River; and

17            WHEREAS, Its boat crews are trained to conduct rescues in rough  
18 weather, and its personnel are trained to assist with emergency flood  
19 responses; and

20            WHEREAS, Petty Officer Schlimme demonstrated extraordinary  
21 heroism on February 12, 1997, while serving as a crew member aboard a  
22 Coast Guard motor lifeboat attached to Coast Guard Station Quillayute  
23 River; and

1       WHEREAS, Shortly before one o'clock in the morning, responding to  
2 a distress call from the sailing vessel Gale Runner, Station  
3 Quillayute River launched two rescue boats; and

4       WHEREAS, The operator of the sailing vessel, Gale Runner,  
5 reported that the vessel was dismasted, taking on water, and in  
6 danger of sinking two miles south of the Quillayute River entrance;  
7 and

8       WHEREAS, Seas of up to twenty-five feet, combined with high winds  
9 and driving rain, created a situation of imminent danger for the two  
10 people aboard the Gale Runner; and

11       WHEREAS, Soon after crossing the treacherous bar in an attempt to  
12 reach the stricken sailboat, the motor lifeboat suddenly rolled over  
13 several times in the surf and confused seas; and

14       WHEREAS, Because of the repeated roll-overs, Petty Officer  
15 Schlimme was forcibly separated from his rescue craft and thrown into  
16 the churning ocean; and

17       WHEREAS, A Coast Guard helicopter from Air Station Port Angeles  
18 was able to hoist to safety the two people from the Gale Runner as it  
19 crashed onto rocks; and

20       WHEREAS, As a crew member of a Coast Guard motor lifeboat, Petty  
21 Officer Schlimme willingly entered extreme ocean storm conditions and  
22 sacrificed his life while attempting to save the lives of the two  
23 people from the Gale Runner; and

24       WHEREAS, Petty Officer Schlimme demonstrated remarkable  
25 initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent  
26 personal danger in this rescue; and

27       WHEREAS, The President of the United States presented the Coast  
28 Guard Medal posthumously to Petty Officer Schlimme for extraordinary  
29 heroism, and for courage and devotion keeping with the highest  
30 tradition of the United States Coast Guard;

31       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
32 United States Coast Guard name a Coast Guard cutter in Petty Officer  
33 Schlimme's honor.

34       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
35 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
36 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
37 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of  
38 Washington, and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

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