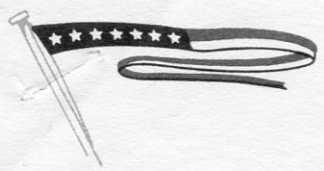


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MAY 31 1979



COMMANDING OFFICER
U. S. S. CONSTITUTION
BOSTON, MASS. 02129

15 May 1979
SR

The Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Tsongas:

July 1979 marks the 25th Anniversary of the passage of Public Law 83-523 which, among other things, designates Boston as the permanent homeport of "Old Ironsides." Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable John W. McCormack, was the Majority Leader in Congress at that time and was directly involved in the amendment and passage of this landmark legislation.

A citizens committee, "USS CONSTITUTION - Boston - 25th Anniversary - July 1979," will honor former Speaker McCormack in a ceremony at Pier 1, adjacent to the USS CONSTITUTION in the Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts on the Fourth of July at 8:45 A.M.

The Co-Chairman of this committee has asked for our assistance in coordinating these arrangements, since at 10:00 A.M., following the presentation to former Speaker McCormack, a separate function, Old Ironsides' Annual Turnaround Cruise, will commence.

Several of the dignitaries I have talked to have suggested that if a reception were to be held immediately following the presentation, it would provide a graceful means to have people attend the first ceremony honoring former Speaker McCormack without feeling compelled to be locked into spending the next 3 - 4 hours on board the ship cruising Boston Harbor.

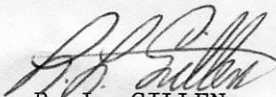
June 12 ~~Refused~~ declined Lt. Brache
Isaac to attend (not allowed on)

As I am sure you are aware, the guest list for the Turnaround Cruise is very limited for safety reasons and is tightly controlled by specific instruction from Washington. I think, therefore, that the concept of separating the two events has much merit and will be done.

A schedule of events and an RSVP card are enclosed for your convenience. Please indicate if you plan to attend either the ceremony, the cruise, or both.

Hoping this information will allow sufficient flexibility in your plans and schedule so that you will be able to attend, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Gillen', written in a cursive style.

R. L. GILLEN
58th in Command