

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1021 Hillsborough County
SPONSOR(S): Murman
TIED BILLS: None. **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** None.

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Local Government & Veterans' Affairs</u>	<u>17 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Cutchins</u>
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill designates the merchant marine vessel S.S. American Victory as the official flagship of Hillsborough County. This Tampa-based ship currently serves as a memorial and museum ship honoring the contributions of the United States Merchant Marine.

The Economic Impact Statement indicates the bill will be primarily privately funded.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill designates the S.S. American Victory as the official flagship of Hillsborough County.

History of the SS American Victory – Construction of the 455-foot SS American Victory was completed on June 20, 1945, at the California Shipyard in Los Angeles, California. This ship sailed the Pacific Ocean during the final days of World War II, supplying America's war effort and assisting in ferrying military equipment and troops back to the United States. After the war, the SS American Victory, under the auspices of the Marshal Plan and the United Nations, sailed the world delivering foodstuffs, manufacturing machinery, and raw materials to countries devastated by the destruction caused by World War II. During the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict, the SS American Victory transported cargo, fuel and ammunition to these areas from ports in the United States and elsewhere.¹

Following service during the Vietnam War, the SS American Victory was de-activated on October 24, 1969, and placed in the James River Reserve Fleet (JRRF), located on the James River near Norfolk, Virginia. The SS American Victory was withdrawn from the JRRF on March 13, 1985, to participate in a government-sponsored Victory Ship Validation Program. The program was designed to gauge the time and expense necessary to activate mothballed Victory- class ships. The ship was brought to full operational status and performed sea trials. In June of 1985, after a \$2.5 million restoration, the SS American Victory sailed for of 26 hours before returning to its anchorage in the JRRF, where it remained until 1999.

The American Victory Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship – In 1998, Congress authorized the conveyance of the SS American Victory to the Tampa-based organization, The Victory Ship, Inc. In 1999, the ship was towed from Virginia to Tampa for major renovation. In 2000, the SS American Victory was relocated to its permanent home in Tampa Bay adjacent to the Florida Aquarium where it has undergone additional restoration.

Once fully restored and operational, the SS American Victory will be the centerpiece of the American Victory Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship, an interactive exhibit honoring America's Merchant Marine, and highlighting the Tampa Bay area's maritime heritage. The SS American Victory will also serve as a "Relive History" cruising ship, providing guests with the opportunity to experience service on a merchant marine vessel.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Designates the victory ship S.S. American Victory the official flagship of Hillsborough County.

¹ Historical information obtained through the American Victory Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship website.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? January 28, 2004

WHERE? The *St. Petersburg Times*, Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

Not Applicable.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not Applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENT/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.