

accrued prior to such separation. In the event of the death of any person designated in section 1 hereof, whether occurring prior or subsequent to the time any loss, destruction, or damage occurs, reimbursement may be made to any dependent relative, as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 4. Existing claims shall be presented within two years from the date of this Act and all such claims hereafter arising shall be presented within two years from the occurrence of the loss, destruction, or damage, except that any person missing who is not willfully absent, or any person who is a prisoner in the hands of the enemy, or who is interned in a neutral country, shall in addition be allowed one year from the time of return to the jurisdiction of the United States in which to file such claim.

SEC. 5. The provisions of this Act shall apply to the personnel of the Coast Guard, military and civil, when the Coast Guard is not operating as a part of the Navy. In such case the Secretary of the Treasury shall have and exercise as to claims of the personnel of the Coast Guard the authority conferred by this Act upon the Secretary of the Navy, and payment or reimbursement in kind of such claims shall be made from appropriations available to the Treasury Department, which appropriations are hereby authorized.

SEC. 6. The provisions of this Act shall apply to the personnel of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and Public Health Service when serving with the Navy.

SEC. 7. Claims arising in the manner indicated in this Act and which have been settled under the terms of a previously existing law shall be regarded as finally determined and no other or further right of recovery under the provisions hereof shall accrue to persons whose claims have been so settled.

SEC. 8. The appropriations available to the Navy Department and the Coast Guard for the payment of claims under the provisions of the Act of October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 389), as amended, are hereby made available for the payment or reimbursement of claims determined under the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. The said Act approved October 6, 1917 (40 Stat. 389), entitled "An Act to provide for the reimbursement of officers, enlisted men, and others in the naval service of the United States for property lost or destroyed in such service", as amended, is hereby repealed.

Approved October 27, 1943.

Time limitation for presenting claims.

Applicability to Coast Guard.

Coast and Geodetic Survey; Public Health Service.

Settlements under prior laws.

Funds available.

34 U. S. C. § 982; 14 U. S. C. § 40.

Repeal.  
34 U. S. C. § 982; Supp. II, § 981; 14 U. S. C. § 40.

[CHAPTER 289]

AN ACT

To amend the Act of May 27, 1908, as amended, authorizing settlement of accounts of deceased officers and enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps.

October 28, 1943  
[H. R. 3226]

[Public Law 177]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. 317), as amended (52 Stat. 352; 34 U. S. C. 941), is hereby further amended by striking out the words "five hundred" appearing in line 35, page 373, Thirty-fifth Statutes at Large, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "one thousand", and by changing the colon after the words "stirpes" in line 47 to a period and inserting "Where the amount due the decedent's estate is \$1,000 or more and no demand is presented by a duly appointed legal representative of the estate, the accounting officers may allow \$1,000 of the amount due to the estate to the widow or legal heirs in the order of precedence hereinabove set forth".*

Navy and Marine Corps.  
Settlement of accounts of deceased personnel.

Approved October 28, 1943.