

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 163

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Construction Battalions, the Seabees

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, in 1941, realizing that reliance on civilian construction workers would be inadequate to meet the Navy's land-based construction requirements, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, recommended the establishment of Naval Construction Battalions, and

Whereas, the first three Naval Construction Battalions (the Seabees) were established in 1942 and placed under the command of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, and

Whereas, the name Seabees is derived from the first letters of Construction Battalions and the organization's logo, a fighting bee clad in a colorful naval uniform and equipped with both a tommy gun and construction tools, symbolizes a preoccupation with construction work while always maintaining a readiness to defend oneself whenever attacked, and

Whereas, the Seabees' motto "Construimus Batuimus" (We Build, We Fight) and their expression "Can Do" epitomize an unwavering commitment to accomplishing their construction mission, and

Whereas, over 325,000 Seabees, who initially were older, experienced construction workers and not younger recruits, served during World War II, building every imaginable naval facility, often under combat conditions, and

Whereas, demobilized after World War II, the Seabees were revitalized during the Korean War, and their miraculous construction feats convinced senior authorities that the Seabees should remain a vibrant component of the Navy, and

Whereas, after the Korean War, the Seabees became the Navy's Goodwill Ambassadors, engaging in international civilian construction projects, such as building roads and orphanages, and also constructing major infrastructure and scientific facilities in Antarctica, and

Whereas, the Seabees' construction support has been vital during every America-involved military conflict in the last half century, and some Seabees have been killed while serving our nation, and

Whereas, among the Vermonters who are either current or former Seabees are members of the General Assembly, including one who will soon be deployed for duty, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Construction Battalions, the Seabees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park in Davisville, Rhode Island.