

Good Afternoon Chair and Representatives of the Committee

My name is Jason Gould, I am a Deputy Sheriff here in Washington County as well as an Officer here at the Capitol Police Department. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the "Dewey Day" Bill H-109

George Dewey was born in Montpelier in 1836, in his parents' home directly across from the Vermont Statehouse. His father Julius was the founder of national Life Insurance. The company first started here in Montpelier at 116 State Street, quickly outgrew that building and build 133 State Street and then expanded up on top of the hill where it still is today.

As a young child Dewey use to play on the front lawn of this very State House. Him and his friends use to go to the top step, blindfold one another and see who could walk furthest, backwards down all the steps.

George Dewey attended Norwich University for 2 years in Northfield before attending the Naval Academy. Dewey graduated from the Naval Academy in 1857 and Warranted a Shipman.

In 1896 Dewey advanced to the Rank of Commodore. In 1897 Commodore Dewey was given command of a U.S. Navy Squadron and placed his flag on the cruiser U.S.S. Olympia. On May 1,1898 the U.S.S. Olympia took part in the Spanish American War, Battle of Manila Bay.

Admiral Dewey successfully invaded Manila Bay, and gave the famous command, "You may fire when ready Gridley". The Spanish Fleet was destroyed without a single loss of American Life.

On March 12, 1899 the U.S. Navy awarded Dewey the rank of Admiral of the Navy. October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1899 Admiral George Dewey was welcomed home to Montpelier Vermont. A crowd close to 40,000 had gathered in the streets and at the Statehouse, to celebrate this national hero and to welcome their native son.

This statehouse was decorated with 2 cannons that were taken from a Spanish Cruiser that Dewey had sunk at Manila Bay, as well as Streamers, Flags and Bunting. The State House also was flying several 4-star Navy Admiral flags.

From 1907 to 1917 Admiral Dewey was the longest serving commander general of the navel order of the U.S.

Admiral Dewey is also the only person who is painted twice within these State House walls. Once in the Foyer in the Portrait of Battle of Manila Bay, and his portrait in the Cedar Creek room.

On 2018 Sgt. Dale Manning of the Vermont Capitol Police and myself came up with the idea of celebrating Admiral Dewey by flying a 4-star U.S. Navy Admiral flag at the statehouse on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of the original Dewey Day in Montpelier. I tasked myself with the goal of making it mean something special. I found out quickly how hard it was to get an Admiral Flag. First, I contacted the U.S. Navy museum, then our Vermont State Senator Patrick Leahy all coming up empty handed. I sent out what seemed to be several hundred E-mails. I then received word back from Commander Lorio of the U.S.S. Dewey. The Crew of the U.S.S. Dewey (DDG 105) took a collection among Wardroom and Chief's Mess and purchased us a Navy 4-Star Admirals flag for us to fly on Dewey Day. With Vermont Legislative out of session I had to become resourceful, I petitioned the Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and he Declared October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as "Dewey Day". We flew that very same US Naval flag on the Statehouse.

I would like to request that H-109 "Dewey Day" be amended with the following added. That the Vermont Capitol Police / Sgt At Arms office fly a US Navy – Blue 4-star Admiral Flag, at the State House here in Montpelier on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> "Dewey Day" .

Thank you for all that you do in helping Vermont ensure that Admiral Dewey's namesake lives on for generations to come here in Vermont.

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