

No. R-178. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy.

(H.C.R.147)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, in 1884, the General Assembly adopted Act 180 incorporating “The Trustees of the Soldiers’ Home in Vermont” and establishing the legal foundation for the contemporary Vermont Veterans’ Home, providing a dignified residence for all those who had served in our nation’s military, including the Vermonters who bravely served in the U.S. Navy, and

Whereas, the origins of the U.S. Navy predate the nation’s independence and can be traced to a 1775 action of the Rhode Island General Assembly, which directed its delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to request that “a fleet of sufficient force for the protection of these colonies” be formed to protect American ports and waters, and

Whereas, after deliberations, on October 13, 1775, considered the U.S. Navy’s founding date, the Continental Congress created a naval advisory committee of which future president John Adams was a member, and

Whereas, accepting the Committee’s recommendations that defensive and offensive naval capabilities be developed, the Continental Congress directed that Massachusetts supply George Washington, then stationed in that colony, with an armed schooner and a sloop for the purpose of seizing British supply vessels, and

Whereas, by the end of 1775, the Continental Congress had authorized the purchase of ships and created an organizational structure formalizing the Continental Navy, and

Whereas, after serving a vital role in the American War of Independence, the U.S. Navy was shuttered, but new maritime dangers such as the Barbary pirates emerged, prompting the U.S. Congress on January 2, 1794 to resolve to create “a naval force, adequate to the protection of the United States against the Algerine corsairs,” and on March 27, 1794, Congress adopted an “Act to provide a Naval Armament,” officially forming today’s U.S. Navy, and

Whereas, the U.S. Navy veterans who reside at the Vermont Veterans’ Home are observing this special anniversary with pride and memories of their years in naval uniform on land and sea, and the nation is marking the occasion with, among other recognitions, the issuance of commemorative U.S. postage stamps, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Navy, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Veterans' Home.