

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 87

Expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site at the former Navy Dive School at the Washington Navy Yard should be provided for a memorial to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have served as divers and whose service in defense of the United States has been carried out beneath the waters of the world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site at the former Navy Dive School at the Washington Navy Yard should be provided for a memorial to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have served as divers and whose service in defense of the United States has been carried out beneath the waters of the world.

Whereas United States Navy divers have received seven Medals of Honor for multiple acts of heroism dating back to 1915;

Whereas United States Navy divers received the only peacetime Medals of Honor ever awarded;

Whereas United States Navy divers significantly contributed to the salvage and restoration of Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack in 1941;

Whereas United States Navy divers addressed critical beach and harbor clearances and recoveries in all United States wars since WWI;

Whereas United States Navy divers significantly contributed to the winning of the Cold War by diving on Soviet communications cables at extreme depths;

Whereas United States Navy divers made critical recoveries of Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia;

Whereas United States Army divers were instrumental in the clearance of underwater munitions at ports and harbors in WWII;

Whereas United States Army divers were crucial to maintenance and repair of vessels and aircraft recovery during the Vietnam War;

Whereas United States Army divers salvaged vessels during the first Gulf War, a Soviet vessel in Somalia, and numerous vessels during the humanitarian operation in Haiti;

Whereas United States Army divers deployed to the Persian Gulf region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas United States Army divers have performed humanitarian relief efforts to clear international ports and harbors after natural disasters;

Whereas United States Army divers have performed hundreds of missions for United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the dams, locks and waterways of the United States;

Whereas United States Army divers have performed life-saving recompression treatments on injured military and civilian personnel;

Whereas United States Marine Corps divers were essential to the development of the buoyant ascent technique which allows forces to deploy from submarines at depth and return to a submerged submarine allowing for the completion of a range of covert missions;

Whereas United States Marine Corps divers were essential to the testing and development of the Fulton Skyhook, intended for the sophisticated snatch pickup of troops from remote areas;

Whereas United States Air Force divers, specifically Pararescuemen and Combat Controllers, have conducted crucial Department of Defense's missions in support of NASA missions and efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers undertook clandestine infiltration missions in the European and Pacific Theaters of WWII;

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers assisted in the recoveries of Air Florida flight 90, the Space Shuttle Challenger, and numerous other aircraft and vehicles;

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers provided critical underwater ship husbandry support during the historic 1957 exploration of the Northwest Passage;

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers have enhanced scientific achievements through collection of marine samples in the Arctic and Antarctic regions;

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers have ensured the safety of shipping in the Pacific Islands; and

Whereas United States Coast Guard divers have established a security posture throughout the homeland during ports, waterways, and coastal security inspections following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the Sec-
3 retary of the Navy should provide an appropriate site at
4 the former Navy Dive School at the Washington Navy
5 Yard for a memorial, to be paid for with private funds,
6 to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have
7 served as divers and whose service in defense of the United
8 States has been carried out beneath the waters of the
9 world, so long as the Secretary of the Navy has exclusive
10 authority to approve the design and site of the memorial.

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