

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 186

Commending all who served with the United States Navy Asiatic Fleet throughout the Far East from 1910 to 1942, especially those sailors and marines who put their lives on the line for this Nation during the earliest days of our involvement in World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending all who served with the United States Navy Asiatic Fleet throughout the Far East from 1910 to 1942, especially those sailors and marines who put their lives on the line for this Nation during the earliest days of our involvement in World War II.

Whereas the United States established the Asiatic Fleet of the Navy in 1910 to protect American nationals, policies, and possessions in the Far East;

Whereas the sailors and marines of the Asiatic Fleet came to the aid of United States citizens and foreign nationals in that region during the Chinese civil war, the Yangtze Flood of 1931, and the outbreak of Sino-Japanese hostilities;

Whereas in 1940, due to deteriorating political relations and increasing tensions between the United States and Japan, a reinforced Asiatic Fleet began concentrating on the defense of the Philippines and engaged in extensive training to ensure maximum operational readiness for any eventuality;

Whereas following the declaration of war against Japan, the warships, submarines, and aircraft of the Asiatic Fleet singly or in task forces courageously fought many naval battles against a superior Japanese armada;

Whereas the Asiatic Fleet directly suffered the loss of 22 ships, 1,826 men killed or missing in action, and 518 men captured, many of whom did not survive their internment; and

Whereas the Asiatic Fleet ceased to exist as a cohesive fighting force on March 1, 1942, when its flagship, the U.S.S. HOUSTON, was sunk by the Japanese near Indonesia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress commends the bravery and re-
4 sourcefulness of all who served in the United States
5 Navy Asiatic Fleet from 1910 to 1942, especially
6 those sailors and marines who put their lives in
7 harm's way during the first few months of America's
8 participation in World War II; and

9 (2) the American people should always remem-
10 ber the courage and determination displayed by the

- 1 personnel of the Asiatic Fleet, honoring the sac-
- 2 rifices they made in defense of the United States.

