

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 45

Designating March 1, 1999 as “United States Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day”, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 1998

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ROBB, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. FORD, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DODD, and Mr. MCCAIN) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating March 1, 1999 as “United States Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day”, and for other purposes.

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 ensured the safety of United States citizens and foreign nationals, and provided humanitarian assistance, 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; and

Whereas the Asiatic Fleet directly suffered the loss of 22 ships, 1,826 men killed or missing in action, and 518 men captured and imprisoned under the worst of conditions with many of them dying while held as prisoners of war: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION.**

4 Congress—

5 (1) commends the personnel who served in the
 6 Asiatic Fleet of the United States Navy during the
 7 period 1910 to 1942; and

8 (2) honors those who gave their lives in the line
 9 of duty while serving in the Asiatic Fleet.

10 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES NAVY ASIATIC FLEET MEMORIAL**
 11 **DAY.**

12 (a) DESIGNATION.—March 1, 1999 is designated as
 13 “United States Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day”.

1 (b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is authorized
2 and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the
3 people of the United States to observe United States Navy
4 Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day with appropriate programs,
5 ceremonies, and activities.

