

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 229

Expressing support for designation of the month of August as National
Destroyer Recognition Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2019

Mr. WILLIAMS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of the month of August
as National Destroyer Recognition Month.

Whereas the first United States torpedo boat destroyer was
the USS Bainbridge (DD-1), placed in full commission
on December 23, 1903;

Whereas the United States Navy was the first service to re-
spond in World War I after the United States declared
war on Germany on April 6, 1917, when six destroyers
from Destroyer Squadron 8, commanded by J.K. Taus-
sig, arrived in Queenstown, Ireland, in May of that year;

Whereas, during World War I, American destroyers pre-
vented the loss of life or ship of 2 million men making
the trans-Atlantic journey;

Whereas in their 250 battles with German U-boats during World War I, American destroyers sunk 1 submarine, the U-58, and laid the groundwork for modern antisubmarine warfare;

Whereas, between June 1942 and February 1945, 175 Fletcher class destroyers were built, and this class of ships is widely recognized as integral to the naval war effort in World War II;

Whereas, during World War II, 19 Fletcher class destroyers were lost and 6 were damaged beyond repair;

Whereas, during World War II, 44 Fletcher class destroyers earned 10 or more battle stars, 19 were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, and 16 received the Presidential Unit Citation;

Whereas following their service during World War II, 32 Fletcher class destroyers were transferred to the navies of America's allies, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey;

Whereas the largest Atlantic operation destroyers participated in during World War II was Operation Neptune, the naval component of Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe, on June 6, 1944;

Whereas, at Utah Beach, destroyers USS Fitch (DD-462), USS Corry (DD-463), and USS Hobson (DD-464) were the first ships of the invasion force to shell the shore;

Whereas, at Omaha Beach, destroyers USS Baldwin (DD-624), USS Carmick (DD-493), USS Doyle (DD-494), USS Emmons (DD-457), USS Frankford (DD-497), USS McCook (DD-496), and USS Thompson (DD-627) shelled the enemy fortifications;

Whereas, at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of World War II, two destroyers, the USS Hoel (DD-533) and the USS Johnston (DD-557) were lost;

Whereas, at the Battle of Okinawa, destroyers were instrumental in providing radar picket protection to Okinawa Island, and out of 101 destroyers, destroyer minelayers, and destroyer minesweepers assigned to radar pickets, 10 were sunk and 32 were damaged by kamikaze attacks;

Whereas a total of 76 United States destroyers were sunk during World War II;

Whereas, during the Korean war, six United States destroyers, USS Collett (DD-730), USS De Haven (DD-727), USS Gurke (DD-783), USS Henderson (DD-785), USS Lyman K. Swenson (DD-729), and USS Mansfield (DD-728), were instrumental in clearing the beachhead prior to the amphibious assault at the Battle of Incheon, South Korea, in September 1950;

Whereas, on August 2, 1964, the destroyer USS Maddox (DD-731) engaged in fire with North Vietnamese Navy torpedo boats and became the impetus for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution;

Whereas the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) was commissioned on July 4, 1991, named after Admiral Arleigh Burke, the longest serving Chief of Naval Operations in the history of the United States Navy, and is the lead ship of the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers;

Whereas, on October 12, 2000, the USS Cole (DDG-67) was attacked by terrorists while at anchor in Aden, Yemen, and 17 crewmembers were lost and 39 injured;

Whereas, on November 29, 2003, the USS Cole (DDG-67) redeployed on its first overseas deployment following the attack;

Whereas, on April 7, 2017, destroyers USS Ross (DDG-78) and USS Porter (DDG-71) fired a total of 59 Tomahawk land attack missiles on Syria's air base at al-Shayrat, from the eastern Mediterranean Sea in response to Syria's use of banned chemical weapons;

Whereas destroyers remain a critical component of United States naval capability around the world, serving to protect the free flow of commerce, reassure America's allies and partners, and deter acts of aggression against American and allied forces; and

Whereas the establishment of the month of August as National Destroyer Recognition Month will recognize the important contributions that United States destroyers and those sailors serving aboard them have made to naval warfare and American military success: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of National De-
3 stroyer Recognition Month;

4 (2) supports those who have served and cur-
5 rently serve aboard United States destroyers;

6 (3) supports the role of destroyers in the naval
7 war arsenal and their importance to America's na-
8 tional security; and

9 (4) calls on the people of the United States, in-
10 cluding veteran groups, State and local officials, and

1 interested groups to observe National Destroyer Rec-
2 ognition Month with appropriate programs and ac-
3 tivities that promote awareness of the contribution
4 of United States destroyers and their crews.

○