

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 529 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, CLYMER, GABIG, BAKER, BEYER, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DELOZIER, DeWEESE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, KOTIK, MAHER, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MOUL, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, READSHAW, REESE, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STEVENSON, TALLMAN, R. TAYLOR, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHITE, OBERLANDER, KILLION AND TRUE, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing the construction of a fitting memorial to Commodore  
2 John Barry in a premier location on the grounds of the United  
3 States Naval Academy.

4 WHEREAS, Commodore John Barry was born at Ballysampson in  
5 Tachumshin Parish, County Wexford, Ireland in 1745 and  
6 immigrated to Philadelphia at 15 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry's first command came in 1766 aboard  
8 the schooner Barbadoes, sailing out of Philadelphia, the city  
9 which he adopted as his home port; and

10 WHEREAS, At the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War,  
11 Commodore Barry, like many of his fellow Irish Americans, joined  
12 the battle for American independence; and

13 WHEREAS, During the course of the American Revolutionary War,  
14 Commodore Barry boldly and skillfully engaged and captured many

1 British vessels and was wounded in service to this country; and

2 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry was instrumental in the effort to  
3 persuade the Pennsylvania General Assembly to ratify the  
4 Constitution of the United States, providing observers with a  
5 compelling example of persuasive lobbying; and

6 WHEREAS, After the American Revolutionary War and the  
7 dissolution of the Continental Navy, Commodore Barry reentered  
8 the maritime trade, helping to open commerce with China and the  
9 Orient; and

10 WHEREAS, Under President Washington's guidance, the Navy was  
11 revived as a permanent entity and on February 22, 1797,  
12 President Washington, realizing the need for strong leadership  
13 in the Navy, personally conferred upon John Barry the rank of  
14 Captain with Commission Number One of the United States Navy  
15 under the Constitution with this first Presidential naval  
16 commission backdated to June 1, 1794; and

17 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry was directed by President Washington  
18 to lead and organize the United States Navy where he directed,  
19 constructed and outfitted the first navy frigates and trained  
20 the first naval officers, including many of the heroes of the  
21 War of 1812; and

22 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry is generally recognized as the  
23 Father of the United States Navy, a title bestowed upon him by  
24 his contemporaries; and

25 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry's last day of active duty came on  
26 March 6, 1801, and he remained head of the Navy until his death  
27 on September 13, 1803; and

28 WHEREAS, Commodore Barry was given a full military burial in  
29 Philadelphia's Old St. Mary's Churchyard; and

30 WHEREAS, The death of Commodore Barry was mourned by the

1 entire nation, and monuments honoring him have subsequently been  
2 raised in Philadelphia, Washington DC, New York, Boston,  
3 Massachusetts and Wexford, Ireland; and

4 WHEREAS, There is no fitting memorial to Commodore Barry  
5 located at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis,  
6 Maryland, the premier training facility for United States Naval  
7 Officers; and

8 WHEREAS, A memorial to the first flag officer of the United  
9 States Navy would be an appropriate and long-awaited honor;  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
12 significance of the legacy of Commodore John Barry and his  
13 monumental role in the American Revolutionary War that allowed  
14 this nation to be founded on the principles of freedom and  
15 opportunity for all people; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives endorse the  
17 construction of a fitting memorial to Commodore John Barry in a  
18 premier location on the grounds of the United States Naval  
19 Academy; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
21 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of  
22 each house of Congress, each member of Congress from  
23 Pennsylvania and the Superintendent of the United States Naval  
24 Academy.