

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 96 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, RYAN, WHEATLEY, C. WILLIAMS, DELLOSO, WEBSTER, E. NELSON, JAMES, BOBACK, SCHMITT, HILL-EVANS, HAMM, POLINCHOCK, COOK, MIZGORSKI, GREINER, HOWARD, KNOWLES, HICKERNELL, SAPPEY, DAVANZO, KAUFFMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PICKETT, FREEMAN, JOZWIAK, R. MACKENZIE, ROZZI, LONGIETTI, SANCHEZ, PASHINSKI, STAATS, MENTZER, JONES, B. MILLER, MILLARD, ROWE, NEILSON, O'MARA, BURNS, SAINATO, SAYLOR, KEEFER, COX, DRISCOLL, MOUL, O'NEAL, INNAMORATO, GUENST, BOROWICZ, SHUSTERMAN, HELM, HENNESSEY, ZABEL, HEFFLEY, KLUNK, McNEILL, KINSEY, SAMUELSON, RAPP, OBERLANDER, STEPHENS, METCALFE, MERCURI, STRUZZI, HERRIN, M. MACKENZIE, R. BROWN, T. DAVIS, ARMANINI AND BERNSTINE, APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 27, 2021

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Secretary of the Navy to designate Philadelphia and
 2 both banks of the Delaware River as the site of the main
 3 celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United States Navy
 4 and the United States Marine Corps in October and November
 5 2025.

6 WHEREAS, The United States Navy was founded in Pennsylvania
 7 on October 13, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress at
 8 Independence Hall in Philadelphia authorized its first ships;
 9 and

10 WHEREAS, Later that year, in Pennsylvania, the Continental
 11 Navy commissioned its first ship and granted its first
 12 commission to John Barry, the father of the American Navy; and

13 WHEREAS, The Second Continental Congress in Pennsylvania
 14 commissioned Lieutenant John Paul Jones, who, on the Delaware,

1 was the first to raise an American national flag, the Grand
2 Union Flag, on a naval vessel; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps was founded in
4 Pennsylvania on November 10, 1775, when the Second Continental
5 Congress at Independence Hall authorized the recruitment of two
6 battalions; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps was born later that
8 year after its first commissioned officer Captain Samuel
9 Nicholas held a recruiting drive in Tun Tavern in Philadelphia;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The first United States Marine Corps amphibious
12 operation, mounted from Pennsylvania, seized sorely needed
13 gunpowder for the Continental Army; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has continued to
15 design and build ships and aircraft and has contributed sons and
16 daughters to lead the United States Navy and the United States
17 Marine Corps since their birth; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Navy's 250-year history should be
19 celebrated by assembling ships, including the Pennsylvania State
20 Flagship *Niagara*, from every major war the United States Navy
21 has fought; and

22 WHEREAS, This assemblage would be possible only in the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because Philadelphia has preserved
24 *USS Olympia*, the sole survivor of the Spanish-American War; and

25 WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps' 250th birthday
26 should be celebrated by rebuilding Tun Tavern in Philadelphia,
27 drawing United States Marines from the Commonwealth of
28 Pennsylvania and beyond; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
30 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Secretary of the

1 Navy to designate Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware
2 River as the site of the main celebration of the 250th birthdays
3 of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps in
4 October and November 2025; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
6 Pennsylvania authorize the United States Navy and the United
7 States Marine Corps to participate by bringing active-duty
8 ships, aircraft, equipment and personnel that represent the
9 United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the President of the United States, the United States Secretary
13 of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of the
14 Marine Corps and each member of the Pennsylvania Congressional
15 Delegation.