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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 164 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY ROBINSON, BARTOLOTTA, LANGERHOLC, BROOKS,  
TOMLINSON, SCAVELLO, GEBHARD, SANTARSIERO, MASTRIANO, ARGALL,  
KANE, FONTANA, YUDICHAK, GORDNER, HUTCHINSON, L. WILLIAMS,  
DUSH, COMITTA, MARTIN, COSTA, J. WARD, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
CAPPELLETTI, STEFANO, VOGEL, PITTMAN, MUTH, AUMENT, SCHWANK,  
BROWNE AND STREET, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Secretary of the Navy to designate the City of  
2 Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware River as the site  
3 of the main celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United  
4 States Navy and the United States Marine Corps in October and  
5 November 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 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
11 the Continental Navy commissioned its first ship and granted its  
12 first commission to John Barry, the "Father of the American  
13 Navy"; and

14 WHEREAS, The Second Continental Congress in Pennsylvania  
15 commissioned Lieutenant John Paul Jones who, on the Delaware  
16 River, was the first to raise an American national flag, the  
17 Grand Union Flag, on a naval vessel; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27       RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
28 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the  
29 Secretary of the Navy to designate the City of Philadelphia and  
30 both banks of the Delaware River as the site of the main

1 celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United States Navy and  
2 the United States Marine Corps in October and November 2025; and  
3 be it further

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

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