

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 122

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 17, 1997

By Senators RICE and DiFRANCESCO

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Department  
2 of the Navy to name a ship in honor of the crew of the U.S.S. Mason (DE  
3 529).

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5 WHEREAS, The Destroyer Escort U.S.S. Mason (DE 529) was built by the  
6 Boston Navy Yard, launched on November 17, 1943 and commissioned  
7 on March 20, 1944; and

8 WHEREAS, The U.S.S. Mason had an entirely African-American crew and  
9 was the first and only ship of its kind in the U.S. Navy allowing African-  
10 Americans to man all positions, all ranks; and

11 WHEREAS, A large majority of the U.S.S. Mason crew had attended service  
12 school and developed teamwork through professionalism, training and  
13 drilling to render meritorious service in convoy escort operations in the  
14 Atlantic Ocean; and

15 WHEREAS, The distinguished service of the crew of the U.S.S. Mason helped  
16 to break the racial barrier of a segregated U.S. Navy after World War II;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, President Clinton, when awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to  
19 the U.S.S. Mason (DE 529) Association, commended the crew for  
20 defending America with no guarantees that their own freedom would be  
21 defended in return; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1995, the U.S.S. Mason was recognized by the Secretary of  
23 the Navy in a special citation which stated that the officers and crew of the  
24 U.S.S. Mason in their unrelenting determination and steadfast devotion to  
25 duty upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service; now,  
26 therefore,

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28 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General  
29 Assembly concurring):

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31 1. The Legislature respectfully memorializes the United States Department  
32 of the Navy to name a ship in honor of the crew of the U.S.S. Mason (DE  
33 529) and its meritorious service during World War II.

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35 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution, signed by the

1 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested  
2 by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall  
3 be transmitted to the Secretary of the Navy, the President and Vice President  
4 of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of  
5 Representatives, and every Member of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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10 This concurrent resolution memorializes the United States Department of  
11 the Navy to name a ship in honor of the crew of the Destroyer Escort U.S.S.  
12 Mason (DE 529) and its meritorious service during World War II. The  
13 U.S.S.Mason had an entirely African-American crew and participated in  
14 convoy escort operations in the Atlantic Ocean. The distinguished service of  
15 the crew of the U.S.S. Mason helped to break the racial barrier of a  
16 segregated U.S. Navy after World War II.

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21 Urges U.S. Navy to name ship in honor of U.S.S. Mason crew.