

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 136

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Secretary of Navy to designate Delaware River as site for celebration of 250th anniversary of Navy and Marine Corps.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Secretary of the Navy to
2 designate the Delaware River as the site for the celebration of the
3 250th anniversary of the Navy and the Marine Corps.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The United States Navy was founded on October 13, 1775
6 when the Continental Congress, at the urging of General George
7 Washington, voted in Philadelphia to outfit sailing vessels in an
8 attempt to intercept British supply ships; and
9 **WHEREAS**, One month later, the United States Marine Corps was
10 founded on November 10, 1775 when the Continental Congress
11 voted for two battalions of Marines to be raised in an attempt to
12 augment the evolving country's fleet; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The Navy commissioned its first ship on the Delaware
14 River, and members of the Marine Corps played crucial roles in the
15 battles of Trenton and Princeton; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The first recruitment effort for the Marine Corps was held
17 at Tun Tavern, often credited as the birthplace of the Marines, in
18 Philadelphia along the banks of the Delaware River; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware River has been the site of momentous
20 historical events, including pivotal battles in the American
21 Revolution and the historic crossing of the Delaware River by
22 George Washington; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Francis Hopkinson, who was born in Philadelphia and
24 signed the Declaration of Independence as a delegate from New
25 Jersey, was a member of the Navy Board and designed the first
26 Navy flag using a pattern of stars and stripes that would later be
27 reflected in the official flag of the United States; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The USS *United States*, the first American warship
29 commissioned under the Naval Act of 1794, was completed in 1797
30 on the banks of the Delaware River in Philadelphia's Southwark
31 neighborhood; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware River was a prominent location for
33 shipbuilding long after the completion of the USS *United States*,
34 producing the Navy's first steel ships at Chester's Delaware River
35 Iron Ship Building and Engine Works (1871-1923), its first
36 battleship at Philadelphia's William Cramp & Sons (1888-1945), its
37 first dreadnought and its first commissioned aircraft carrier at
38 Camden's New York Shipbuilding Corporation (1899-1968), its
39 first escort carrier at Chester's Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Co.
40 (1917-1989), and its ultimate battleships USS *New Jersey* and USS
41 *Wisconsin* at the Philadelphia Navy Yard (1812-1995); and
42 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware River between the banks of Southern New
43 Jersey and Philadelphia is a uniquely appropriate site to host the
44 celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Navy and the Marine
45 Corps, providing easy access for residents and visitors from the
46 region and beyond; and
47 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware River's location also provides access to the
48 USS *Olympia*, the sole survivor of the Spanish-American War,

SR136 CRUZ-PEREZ

3

1 currently preserved in Philadelphia, and the USS *New Jersey*, the
2 Navy's most decorated battleship, preserved in Camden, New
3 Jersey; now, therefore,

4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. This House urges the Secretary of the Navy to designate the
8 Delaware River as the site for the celebration of the 250th
9 anniversary of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

10

11 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
12 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Secretary
13 of the Navy.

14

15

16

STATEMENT

17

18 This resolution urges the Secretary of the Navy to designate the
19 Delaware River as the site for the celebration of the 250th
20 anniversary of the Navy and the Marine Corps. Founded on
21 October 13, 1775 and November 10, 1775 respectively, the United
22 States Navy and Marine Corps will be celebrating their 250th
23 anniversaries in 2025.

24 The Delaware River has been the site of momentous historical
25 events, including pivotal battles in the American Revolution. The
26 banks of the Delaware River in Philadelphia and New Jersey are
27 part of naval and marine history, and include the location where the
28 Navy commissioned its first ship and where crucial land action by
29 the Marine Corps in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton occurred.

30 The Delaware River has been part of the history of shipbuilding
31 in this nation, from the completion of the USS *United States*, the
32 first American warship commissioned under the Naval Act of 1794,
33 to production throughout the years at the Philadelphia Navy Yard,
34 Chester's Delaware River Iron Ship Building and Engine Works,
35 Philadelphia's William Cramp & Sons, Chester's Sun Shipbuilding
36 & Drydock Co., and Camden's New York Shipbuilding
37 Corporation.

38 The section of the Delaware River situated between Southern
39 New Jersey and Philadelphia is easily accessible to residents and
40 visitors from the region and beyond, and provides access to the USS
41 *Olympia*, the sole survivor of the Spanish-American War, and the
42 USS *New Jersey*, the country's most decorated battleship.