

By: Representatives Montgomery, Holland,  
Rogers (61st), Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SAILORS OF THE USS  
2 GURKE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND  
3 DISPLAY OF HEROISM AND PATRIOTISM THROUGH THE YEARS.

4 WHEREAS, the USS Gurke named in honor of private first class  
5 Henry Gurke of the United States Marine Corps, of Neche, North  
6 Dakota, whose extraordinary heroism and courage above and beyond  
7 the call of duty while serving with the Third Marine Raider  
8 Battalion during action against the enemy Japanese Forces in the  
9 Solomon Islands area on November 9, 1943, was posthumously honored  
10 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the Congressional Medal of  
11 Honor for his unswerving devotion to duty and superb valor; and

12 WHEREAS, the USS Gurke, a DD Type destroyer, is one of 103  
13 Gearing Class destroyers that were built at 8 different shipyards,  
14 whose mission is to provide anti-submarine and anti-surface  
15 defense to other surface forces; and

16 WHEREAS, commissioned May 12, 1945, under the command of  
17 Commander Kenneth Loveland, the USS Gurke sailed for the Western  
18 Pacific on August 27, 1945, reaching Pearl Harbor September 2; and

19 WHEREAS, upon completion of a successful tour of duty, the  
20 USS Gurke returned to her home port of San Diego, in February 1946  
21 and participated in training operations until September 4, 1947,  
22 when she sailed for another Western Pacific cruise; and

23 WHEREAS, two further Western Pacific cruises, alternating  
24 with operations out of San Diego, and a cruise to Alaska in 1948  
25 aiding the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Yukon gold  
26 rush, filled the USS Gurke's schedule until the outbreak of the  
27 Korean War; and

28           WHEREAS, possessing a rich legacy of wartime accounts, the  
29 crews and leadership of the USS Gurke over the years have embarked  
30 upon many wartime and peacetime deployments to carry out the  
31 mission of the United States Navy to win wars, deter aggression  
32 and maintain freedom of the seas; and

33           WHEREAS, missions of the USS Gurke have included: Yokosuka,  
34 Wolmi Do, the Inchon waterfront, the Formosa Straits, the Siege of  
35 Wonsan, the Korean Coast, Vietnam, Hawaii, Japan, the Philippines,  
36 Hong Kong, Mekong, Saigon and Okinawa to name a few; and

37           WHEREAS, during their time of service, the sailors of the USS  
38 Gurke have genuinely represented what it means to be dedicated to  
39 duty, honor and country; and

40           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
41 and commend the diligence and sacrifices of the many sailors who  
42 have served on the USS Gurke over the years:

43           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
44 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
45 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the sailors of the USS Gurke  
46 for their commitment to the defense of the United States and for  
47 their display of heroism, valor and patriotism through the years.

48           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
49 furnished to the United States Navy command and to the members of  
50 the Capitol Press Corps.