

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Barnett, To: Rules  
Dearing, Jackson (32nd), Simmons  
(13th), Stone, Watson

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE U.S. NAVY SEABEES ON THE  
2 OCCASION OF THEIR DIAMOND (75TH) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

3 WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy Seabees from the Mississippi Gulf  
4 Coast and around the nation have kicked off a series of  
5 celebrations throughout 2017 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary  
6 of the creation of the Naval Construction Force on March 5, 1942;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the Seabees were created on March 5, 1942, after  
9 then Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards  
10 and Docks, recognized the need for a militarized construction  
11 force. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy approved  
12 the formation of the first naval construction battalions. Naval  
13 Facilities Engineering Command, established in 1842, is the Navy's  
14 oldest systems command. The Navy Civil Engineer Corps was  
15 established in 1867 following the Civil War; and

16 WHEREAS, success in World War II hinged on the ability of the  
17 military to quickly complete ambitious construction projects under  
18 dangerous conditions, so the U.S. Navy established the military's



19 first Naval Construction Battalions under the direction of  
20 officers from the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. More than 325,000  
21 Seabees served during World War II. Continuing this proud  
22 tradition, the Seabees have provided critical support to American  
23 troops in every conflict since then; and

24 WHEREAS, the Seabees are construction workers fully trained  
25 in defending themselves against enemy attack while building the  
26 infrastructure to keep the war effort moving. The drive and  
27 ingenuity of these fighting builders allowed the U.S. military to  
28 stay a step ahead of the enemy in both World War II Theaters of  
29 Operation and were a key factor in securing victory. Following  
30 World War II, the extraordinary contributions of the Seabees led  
31 to them becoming a permanent part of the Navy's fighting forces,  
32 building and fighting in every military conflict since their  
33 inception; and

34 WHEREAS, Mississippians welcomed the U.S. Navy to the Gulf  
35 Coast, March 31-April 8, with units coming from around the country  
36 to celebrate the Bicentennial of Mississippi Statehood and the  
37 75th Anniversary of the Seabees. Mississippi Gulf Coast Navy  
38 Week's purpose is to share the Navy's story with the people of the  
39 community and raise awareness of the Navy, its mission, and its  
40 people. To promote this, there were multiple events scheduled  
41 throughout the week, including jumps by the Navy Parachute Team  
42 "The Leapfrogs," static displays of oceanographic systems and  
43 underwater drones with Sailors from the Naval Meteorology and



44 Oceanography Command, multiple performances by the Navy Band  
45 Southeast, and school visits with Sailors from USS Mississippi  
46 (SSN 782) and USS Ramage (DDG 61), as well as Naval Construction  
47 Group 2. Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes and other local dignitaries  
48 conducted a ceremony with the presentation of the Mississippi Gulf  
49 Coast Navy Week Proclamation, April 1, 2017, at Centennial Plaza  
50 during the Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration; and

51 WHEREAS, for 75 years, the Seabees have been protecting the  
52 nation and serving the Navy and Marine Corps with great pride and  
53 dedication. As we kick off this year-long celebration, let's not  
54 forget those who have fought bravely and given their all in  
55 support of us, our families, our way of life, and our great state  
56 and nation:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
58 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the U.S. Navy Seabees on  
59 the occasion of their Diamond (75th) Anniversary Celebration and  
60 join the Seabee Command Unit in Gulfport in celebrating this  
61 auspicious occasion.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
63 the Commander of the Naval Construction Battalion Center in  
64 Gulfport and the Governor, and made available to the Capitol Press  
65 Corps.

