

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* supplied crucial firepower for the invasion of Okinawa;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* served as a flagship for the Seventh Fleet during the Korean conflict;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* provided consistent naval gunfire support during the Korean conflict to the First Marine Division, the First Republic of Korea Corps, and United Nations forces;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* received 5 battle stars for World War II and one for the Korean conflict;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* returned to combat on January 17, 1991;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* served as Tomahawk strike warfare commander for the Persian Gulf, and directed the sequence of Tomahawk launches that initiated Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the U.S.S. *Wisconsin*, decommissioned on September 30, 1991, is berthed at Portsmouth, Virginia; and may soon be berthed at Nauticus, the National Maritime Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, where she would serve as a floating monument and an educational museum: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a commemorative postage stamp should be issued by the United States Postal Service in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her; and

(2) the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a postage stamp be issued.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I have the distinct honor of submitting a resolution that commemorates one of the great vessels in our naval history and her crew members. I am joined by the senior Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL.

Mr. President, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* is one of four Iowa-class battleships, the largest battleships ever built by the Navy. The four vessels, the *Wisconsin*, the *Iowa*, the *New Jersey* and the *Missouri*, served gallantly in every significant United States conflict from World War II to the Persian Gulf war.

At 887 feet, the *Wisconsin* carries a 108-foot, three-inch beam with a displacement of 45,000 tons. Her armor includes 9 sixteen-inch guns, 20 five-inch guns, 80 40-millimeter guns, and 49 20-millimeter guns. The 16-inch guns can lob shells roughly the weight of a VW Beetle to distances of up to 24 miles. The recoil of these might guns was so great that the deck had to be built of teak wood because steel plating would buckle from the stress. She was designed for a crew of 1,921 sailors, but she carried as many as 2,700 sailors during World War II and the Korean war.

Mr. President, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* was built in Philadelphia and commissioned on 7 December 1943, exactly 2 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor. From the moment President Roosevelt selected the name of the vessel, Wisconsin citizens took an immediate interest. School children volunteered to christen the battleship. Some folks even recommended christening the *Wisconsin* with water from the Wisconsin River, instead of champagne.

In the summer of 1944, she underwent sea trials and training in the Chesapeake Bay. On 7 July, the *Wisconsin* departed from Norfolk, VA, on her way to war with the legendary Adm. William F. "Bull" Halsey and his 3rd Fleet. As U.S. Marines and infantry began their island-hopping strategy toward the home islands of Japan, *Wisconsin* sent her shells hurling with deadly accuracy into the Philippines. And coincidentally enough, the *Wisconsin's* first commander, Captain Earl E. Stone, was born in Milwaukee and attended the city's public schools and the State university before his appointment to the Naval Academy.

The *Wisconsin* then joined the 5th Fleet under another legendary commander, Adm. Raymond Spruance, and helped silence Japanese resistance on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and then joined in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Soon thereafter, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* became part of Fast Carrier Task Force 38. She joined in attacks in the Philippine Islands, Saigon, Camranh Bay, Hong Kong, Canton, Hainan, and the Japanese home islands.

After the Japanese surrender, the *Wisconsin* headed home with five battle stars to her credit. One amazing fact about her World War II service is that the *Wisconsin* didn't lose one crewman or get hit.

She spent the summer at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard where she underwent an extensive overhaul. Following a 2-year stint as a training ship, she returned to Norfolk and joined the Atlantic Fleet Reserve Fleet for inactivation.

By July 1, 1948, she was taken out of commission and mothballed. However, the Korean war reawakened the *Wisconsin* and her sister battleships. She departed Norfolk on October 25, 1951, bound for the Pacific where she became the flagship of the 7th Fleet. When the Korean war broke out, future Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., served as the *Wisconsin's* navigator and extolled her "versatility, maneuverability, strength, and power." During the conflict, she covered troop landings; fired upon enemy troops, trains, trucks, and bridges all along the Korean coastline; and attacked important North Korean ports in Hungnam, Wonsan, and Songjin. In April 1952, she steamed toward Norfolk with another battle star.

Upon arriving in Norfolk, *Wisconsin* received her second overhaul at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Following a number of peacetime and diplomatic voyages showing the flag, she returned to Norfolk on June 11, 1954 for a brief overhaul before taking her role as a training ship.

On May 6, 1954, she was cruising off the Virginia Capes in heavy fog when she collided with the destroyer U.S.S. *Eaton*. *Wisconsin* returned to Norfolk with extensive bow damage, and a week later found herself back in the Norfolk

Naval Shipyard. Shipyard workers fitted a 120-ton, 68-foot bow section from the unfinished Iowa-class battleship Kentucky. Working round-the-clock, *Wisconsin's* ship's force and shipyard personnel completed the operation in just 16 days.

On June 28, 1956, the ship was ready for sea. *Wisconsin* steamed from Norfolk five more times before heading for Philadelphia and deactivation in 1958. She remained on inactive status until 1986, when she was towed to Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. In 1988, the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* was re-commissioned for a third time.

In 1991, she led the Navy's surface attack on Iraq during the Gulf war with the first-ever use of cruise missiles in battle.

Now, Mr. President, she is decommissioned and will soon be berthed at Nauticus, the National Maritime Museum in Norfolk, VA, where she will serve as a floating monument and an educational museum. I wish she had found her final port in the great State of Wisconsin, but getting her there simply isn't possible—she's just too big.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will help me and the senior Senator from Wisconsin honor this great ship with a commemorative stamp.

SENATE RESOLUTION 204—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 21, 1999, AND THE WEEK BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2000, AS "NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 204

Whereas the family is the basic strength of any free and orderly society;

Whereas it is in the family that America's youth are nurtured and taught the values vital to success and happiness in life: respect for others, honesty, service, hard work, loyalty, love, and others;

Whereas the family provides the support necessary for people to pursue their goals;

Whereas it is appropriate to honor the family unit as essential to the continued well-being of the United States;

Whereas it is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of family loyalties and ties: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates the week beginning on November 21, 1999 and the week beginning on November 19, 2000, as "National Family Week". The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.