ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 63

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblymen Dancer, Conaway, Assemblywomen Mosquera and Gove

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.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2022)
AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Secretary of the Navy to
designate the Delaware River as the site for the celebration of the
250th anniversary of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, The United States Navy was founded on October 13, 1775
when the Continental Congress, at the urging of General George
Washington, voted in Philadelphia to outfit sailing vessels in an
attempt to intercept British supply ships; and

WHEREAS, One month later, the United States Marine Corps was
founded on November 10, 1775 when the Continental Congress
voted for two battalions of Marines to be raised in an attempt to
augment the evolving country’s fleet; and

WHEREAS, The Navy commissioned its first ship on the Delaware
River, and members of the Marine Corps played crucial roles in the
battles of Trenton and Princeton; and

WHEREAS, The first recruitment effort for the Marine Corps was held
at Tun Tavern, often credited as the birthplace of the Marines, in
Philadelphia along the banks of the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, The Delaware River has been the site of momentous
historical events, including pivotal battles in the American
Revolution and the historic crossing of the Delaware River by
George Washington; and

WHEREAS, Francis Hopkinson, who was born in Philadelphia and
signed the Declaration of Independence as a delegate from New
Jersey, was a member of the Navy Board and designed the first
Navy flag using a pattern of stars and stripes that would later be
reflected in the official flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The USS United States, the first American warship
commissioned under the Naval Act of 1794, was completed in 1797
on the banks of the Delaware River in Philadelphia’s Southwark
neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The Delaware River was a prominent location for
shipbuilding long after the completion of the USS United States,
producing the Navy’s first steel ships at Chester’s Delaware River
Iron Ship Building and Engine Works (1871-1923), its first
battleship at Philadelphia’s William Cramp & Sons (1888-1945), its
first dreadnought and its first commissioned aircraft carrier at
Camden’s New York Shipbuilding Corporation (1899-1968), its
first escort carrier at Chester’s Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Co.
(1917-1989), and its ultimate battleships USS New Jersey and USS
Wisconsin at the Philadelphia Navy Yard (1812-1995); and

WHEREAS, The Delaware River between the banks of Southern New
Jersey and Philadelphia is a uniquely appropriate site to host the
celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Navy and the Marine
Corps, providing easy access for residents and visitors from the
region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The Delaware River’s location also provides access to the
USS Olympia, the sole survivor of the Spanish-American War.
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3
currently preserved in Philadelphia, and the USS New Jersey, the
Navy's most decorated battleship, preserved in Camden, New
Jersey; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New
Jersey:

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

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
Secretary of the Navy.

STATEMENT

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

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

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

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