

House Resolution 114 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY BARKER, THOMPSON, VONDRAN, MOORE, GOSA, BRADLEY,
DETERMANN, RINKER, SITZMANN, GERHOLD, KURTH, HOLT,
JENEARY, WILLS, BLOOMINGDALE, BLOM, SMITH, BEHN,
SORENSEN, GUSTOFF, HAYES, WILLIAMS, FISHER, WOOD,
A. MEYER, WELDON, LATHAM, JONES, INGELS, LARSON,
THOMSON, R. JOHNSON, and DUNWELL

1 A Resolution honoring the Iowans who were killed in or
2 survived the attack on the USS Indianapolis on July
3 30, 1945.

4 WHEREAS, on November 15, 1932, the USS Indianapolis
5 was accepted and commissioned in the United States Navy;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the USS Indianapolis served as the flagship
8 of the Fifth Fleet through much of World War II, under
9 the command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance; and

10 WHEREAS, all who served aboard the USS Indianapolis
11 distinguished themselves and their ship in the Pacific
12 during World War II, with the ship earning a total of 10
13 battle stars in the Pacific between 1942 and 1945; and

14 WHEREAS, the USS Indianapolis was struck by a
15 kamikaze plane in March 1945 at Okinawa, during the
16 Okinawa Gunto Operation, resulting in 38 casualties; and

17 WHEREAS, on July 26, 1945, the USS Indianapolis
18 delivered parts for the first operational atomic bomb to
19 the island of Tinian, which less than two weeks later
20 was flown by a B-29 bomber, the Enola Gay, and dropped
21 on Hiroshima to bring an early end to the war with
22 Imperial Japan; and

23 WHEREAS, on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis,

1 while transiting unescorted from Guam to the Leyte
2 Gulf, was struck by two torpedoes fired by a Japanese
3 submarine, the first torpedo striking the bow and the
4 second striking near midship on the starboard side; and

5 WHEREAS, the resulting explosion split the ship to
6 the keel and knocked out electrical power, causing the
7 USS Indianapolis to sink rapidly; and

8 WHEREAS, of the 1,195 men aboard, some 900 made it to
9 the water in the 12 minutes before the ship sank; and

10 WHEREAS, few life rafts were released and most
11 survivors wore standard life jackets as shark attacks
12 began at sunrise that day and continued until nearly
13 five days later when 316 survivors were removed from the
14 water, after their accidental discovery during a routine
15 antisubmarine patrol; and

16 WHEREAS, there were 34 Iowans on board the USS
17 Indianapolis in the early morning of July 30, 1945; and

18 WHEREAS, 30 soldiers from Iowa, Seaman Second Class
19 Frederick H. Baker, Seaman First Class Robert E. Batten,
20 Seaman Second Class Raynard R. Boege, Mailman Third
21 Class Harold V. Briley, Water Tender Second Class Harley
22 D. Figgins, Ensign Cecil D. Foell, Machinist's Mate
23 Third Class Leonard A. Fritz, Fireman Second Class
24 Richard C. Gries, Fireman First Class Donald R. Griggs,
25 Seaman Second Class Lester B. Hodgins, Private First
26 Class Leland R. Hubbard, Seaman First Class Harry H.
27 Huebner, Seaman Second Class Merle B. Hutchison, Seaman
28 Second Class Chris A. Jensen, Seaman First Class Harold
29 B. Johnson, Ensign David A. Jump, Seaman Second Class
30 Robert H. King, Seaman First Class Elbern L. Knott,

H.R. 114

1 Seaman Second Class Darwin G. Kruse, Seaman First Class
2 Leo W. Lohr, Seaman Second Class Raymond A. Nutt,
3 Yeoman First Class Theodore G. Ott, Fireman Second Class
4 Welburn M. Pender, Fireman First Class Leroy Reinert,
5 Fireman Second Class Roy E. Rhoten, Radarman Third Class
6 James R. Schlotter, First Lieutenant Edward H. Stauffer,
7 Gunner's Mate Third Class Charles B. Stickley, Seaman
8 Second Class Joseph M. Strain, and Private First Class
9 Arthur A. Thomsen, perished at sea; and

10 WHEREAS, only four of the Iowans on board that
11 morning, Seaman First Class Charles O. Wells of
12 Camanche, Seaman Second Class Glen Laverne Milbrodt of
13 Akron, Electrician's Mate Second Class Edward Chris Koch
14 of Denison, and Seaman First Class Robert H. Brundige of
15 Des Moines, survived the attack on the USS Indianapolis;
16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
18 That the House of Representatives honors the lives and
19 service of each of the Iowans who were killed in or
20 survived the attack on the USS Indianapolis on July 30,
21 1945.