

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: ~~Delegate Conroy~~ **Delegates Conroy, Shank, Donoghue, McKee, Parrott,
Glassman, Riley, DeCarlo, and Snodgrass**

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Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 13, 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 7

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Remembering the U.S.S. Cole**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing and memorializing the loss of the American Navy
4 personnel on the U.S.S. Cole including Maryland crew members who gave their
5 lives as a result of the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. Cole.

6 WHEREAS, On October 12, 2000, the DDG 67 U.S.S. Cole was moored to a
7 harbor refueling island during a stop in the port of Aden, Yemen; and

8 WHEREAS, At approximately 5:15 a.m. eastern daylight savings time, an
9 attack was executed on the U.S.S. Cole by a small boat containing explosives that
10 pulled alongside the missile destroyer; and

11 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the explosion, the crew members of the U.S.S.
12 Cole acted with tremendous foresight, courage, and determination, and prompted
13 Army General William Crouch to remark that, "the actions of the commanding officer
14 and crew, following the attack, saved the ship and several of their shipmates"; and

15 WHEREAS, The explosion killed 17 ship personnel, injured 39, and caused
16 extensive damage to the U.S.S. Cole, ripping at least a 40 by 40 foot hole into the
17 armored hull of the ship; and

18 WHEREAS, Three of the 17 Navy personnel killed were citizens of Maryland:

19 ~~Joshua Parlett, age 19, Engineman Fireman, from Churchville, who had just~~
20 ~~joined the Navy after graduating from high school;~~

1 Patrick Roy, age 19, Fireman Apprentice, from Keedysville, a lacrosse athlete,
2 wrestling enthusiast, and school actor who was described by a family friend as a "nice
3 kid who wanted to serve his country"; and

4 Craig Wibberley, age 19, Seaman, from Williamsport, who raised and lowered
5 the destroyer's small anchor and was described by the family minister as "a good
6 all-American boy"; and

7 Joshua Langdon Parlett, age 19, Engineman Fireman, from Churchville, who
8 had joined the Navy following graduation from Harford Christian School, was known
9 by his shipmates as a hardworking problem solver, and was a young man who had
10 found direction in his life through service to God and country;

11 Patrick Howard Roy, age 19, Fireman Apprentice, from Keedysville, captain of
12 the Storm King School lacrosse team, and outdoor enthusiast, who was drawn to the
13 Navy by his love of sailing, and who lived his life simply and without pretense; and

14 Craig Bryan Wibberley, age 19, Seaman Apprentice, from Williamsport, soccer
15 and saxophone player, with keen computer abilities, who enjoyed the travel and
16 exploration the Navy experience offered; and

17 WHEREAS, These three Marylanders, along with the other crew of the U.S.S.
18 Cole, answered the same call to service and were working hard to keep peace and
19 stability in a region that could disrupt the entire world at any time; and

20 WHEREAS, President Clinton had this to say about the ultimate sacrifice made
21 by those who gave their lives on the U.S.S. Cole:

22 "Their tragic loss reminds us that even when America is not at war, the men and
23 women of our military still risk their lives for peace.

24 ...I regret that no one will ever be able to write a full account of the wars we
25 never fought, the losses we never suffered, the tears we never shed, because men and
26 women like those who were on the U.S.S. Cole were standing guard for peace. We
27 should never ever forget that"; now, therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
29 General Assembly recognizes and memorializes the 17 American Navy personnel on
30 the U.S.S. Cole, including the three Marylanders, the ultimate sacrifice made by
31 Joshua Langdon Parlett, Patrick Howard Roy, and Craig Bryan Wibberley, the
32 promise of their young lives, their tremendous courage, their willingness to serve
33 their country, and their determination to contribute to the American ideals of peace
34 and liberty; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
36 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
37 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
38 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

