

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Delegate Conroy**

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
10 General Assembly recognizes and memorializes the 17 American Navy personnel on
11 the U.S.S. Cole, including the three Marylanders, the ultimate sacrifice made by
12 Joshua Parlett, Patrick Roy, and Craig Wibberley, the promise of their young lives,
13 their tremendous courage, their willingness to serve their country, and their
14 determination to contribute to the American ideals of peace and liberty; and be it
15 further

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