

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

House Joint Resolution 14 (Delegate Walkup)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Recognition of Captain Lambert Wickes of Maryland - Revolutionary War Naval Hero

This joint resolution requests the Maryland General Assembly to recognize the role of Captain Lambert Wickes of Maryland in the successful outcome of the American Revolutionary War. The State must partner with the United States Navy to develop and conduct an appropriate memorial event on the grounds of the United States Naval Academy annually on October 1 to honor the service and sacrifice of Captain Lambert Wickes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Conducting a memorial event for Captain Lambert Wickes will not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Lambert Wickes was born around 1742 in Kent County, Maryland. During the Revolutionary War, Wickes was appointed as the captain of the 16-gun Reprisal and listed as the eleventh in seniority in the Continental Navy. In October 1776 Wickes was selected to transport Benjamin Franklin to France on a secret mission. Through this mission, Wickes became the first Continental Navy Officer to enter European waters and the Reprisal was the first American warship to base operations in Europe, capturing and destroying 14 ships in five days. On the ships return voyage to the United States, the Reprisal sunk in the Atlantic Ocean during a violent storm. Wickes, along with the men onboard the Reprisal perished. Only one member of the ship's crew

survived. Despite his contributions to the Continental Navy, Wickes did not receive a military burial, or a State or national commemoration for his sacrifice.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Surface Navy Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2010
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - May 14, 2010

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