

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Delegates Cox, Arentz, Arikan, Boteler, Buckel, Hornberger, Howard, Krebs, Mangione, McComas, McKay, Morgan, Novotny, Otto, Reilly, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Remembrance of the Attack on Pearl Harbor

FOR the purpose of declaring that the General Assembly pays tribute to and honors the men and women who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, the past and present residents of Maryland who defended our nation during the attack, and those who served in the armed forces of the United States in World War II, offers thanksgiving for the victory of the United States in the war, and appreciates the veteran support community.

WHEREAS, December 7, 2021, was the 80th anniversary of the unprovoked attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy on the United States at Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked facilities, naval vessels, and aircraft of the United States, damaging vessels of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and destroying 188 aircraft of the United States; and

WHEREAS, 2,335 members of the armed forces of the United States were killed or mortally wounded, 1,143 members of the armed forces of the United States were wounded, 68 civilians were killed, and 103 civilians were wounded in the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor “a date which will live in infamy”; and

WHEREAS, On December 8, 1941, the U.S. Congress exercised its constitutional authority to declare war on the Empire of Japan, and on December 11, 1941, on the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler, thus formally initiating the involvement of the United States in the war that would greatly shape the Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS, More than 400,000 men and women of the United States died in defense of our nation and the sacred freedoms acknowledged in the U.S. Declaration of



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Independence and Constitution and to end the scourge and spread of Nazism and Japanese imperialism; and

WHEREAS, After close to 4 years of bloody conflict in the Pacific and European theaters, World War II ended on September 2, 1945, with the Japanese surrender to General Douglas MacArthur aboard the USS Missouri; and

WHEREAS, There are fewer than one hundred survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor still living; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Wilbur “Jack” Myers, age 98 from Hagerstown, Staff Sergeant Melvin Hurwitz, age 96 from Frederick, and Lieutenant Adolph “Abe” Chwastyk, age 95 from Silver Spring, three World War II veterans of the European theater representing Maryland, traveled to Pearl Harbor on December 7, 2021, for the 80th anniversary of the attack; and

WHEREAS, The Navy bell of the USS Maryland, which was present during the attack on Pearl Harbor, has resided on the Maryland Capital lawn in Annapolis for close to 60 years as a lasting testimony to the connection between our great State and the courageous defense of our nation from the USS Maryland on that “date which will live in infamy”; and

WHEREAS, Maryland residents, including Robert Everett Arnott of the USS Pennsylvania BB–38, Albert Eugene Hayden of the USS Oklahoma BB–37, Clyde Jackson Rawson of the USS Arizona BB–39, Jack Martin Restivo of the USS Arizona BB–39, and Victor Charles Tambolleo of the USS Arizona BB–39, were among the casualties of the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, On August 23, 1994, the U.S. Congress enacted Public Law 103–308, designating December 7 each year National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly:

(1) pays tribute to the members of the armed forces of the United States and civilians who died in the attack;

(2) acknowledges the role of the USS Maryland and past and present residents of the State who served in branches of the United States armed forces and defended our nation against hostile forces during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;

(3) offers thanksgiving for the ultimate military victory of the United States against our enemies in the great conflict of World War II;

(4) appreciates the role of members of the World War II veteran support community, such as Operation Meatball and The Best Defense Foundation, responsible for

the ongoing care and honor of these national treasures and last surviving warriors of all branches of the United States armed forces who defended our freedom in the European and Pacific theaters of World War II; and

(5) honors the thousands of men and women of the United States armed forces who paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of freedom and liberty during World War II; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.