

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

October 13, 2020

Support for the Battleship Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act

The Battleship USS Iowa (USS Iowa) is a retired battleship from the United States Navy (Navy) that is located at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro. It proudly served as home to hundreds of thousands of sailors during World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War. It is an icon for the United States Surface Navy which represents the sailors and ships that sail on oceans around the world to ensure the safety and freedom of Americans. In 2012, the Navy donated Battleship USS Iowa to the Pacific Battleship Center (Center). The Center then established the Battleship USS Iowa Museum and chose the Port of Los Angeles as its permanent location.

Today, the USS Iowa serves as a museum, community platform, and an educational center for the region and visitors across the country. Each year welcome millions of families and visitors of all ages. It hosts military activities, innovative exhibits, veteran programs, educational opportunities for students and much more. It is also home to Los Angeles Fleet Week, which has the highest public engagement of any Fleet Week in the United States.

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In 2019, the Navy gave the Center the right to become a National Museum of the Surface Navy. By declaring this, the USS Iowa could become an official museum to honor millions of Americans who have proudly served and continue to serve in the Surface Navy. This would also enhance the current programs and exhibits that are being provided now.

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán introduced the Battleship Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act. The bill would designate and rename the Battleship USS Iowa Museum as the National Museum of the Surface Navy. It will define the purpose of the museum as supporting the United States Surface Navy community, as a platform for education, community and veterans programs and to preserve artifacts, documents and history collected by the museum.

The USS Iowa is an iconic Los Angeles landmark and one of the best museums in the region. This Board should support any efforts that preserve and maintain the history of the battleship while continuing to educate people of the importance of the US Navy.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to send a letter of support to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-Calif.) regarding the Battleship Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act (*S. 4683 and HR 8369*), that will designate the Battleship USS Iowa Museum, located at the Port of Los Angeles, as the "National Museum of the Surface Navy" to support the Surface Navy community, be a platform for education, community and veterans programs and to preserve artifacts, documents and history collected by the museum.

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JH:dg