

House Resolution 1593

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring James Nicholas Chotas; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, James Nicholas Chotas, know to his family and friends as Mimi Chotas, was
3 the oldest son of Nicholas D. and Eustia Chotas, both immigrants to America from Greece;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mimi's father, Nicholas D. Chotas, was a founder and the first national
6 president of AHEPA, a Greek-American service organization founded in Atlanta in 1922,
7 which now has chapters across the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe; and

8 WHEREAS, Mimi Chotas attended Tech High School and went on to be the first of Atlanta's
9 Greek sons to volunteer for the United States Navy at the age of 17 in November 1940, as
10 America was anticipating World War II, where he served on the submarine U.S.S. Grayback
11 as a Radioman Third Class; and

12 WHEREAS, the U.S.S. Grayback was actively engaged in the Pacific Theater, being
13 credited, according to Navy records, with the sinking of 14 ships at 63,835 tons, of which
14 21,594 tons were sunk on its final mission alone; and

15 WHEREAS, the U.S.S. Grayback was sunk and its entire crew was lost on February 26,
16 1944, after a 500 pound bomb from a Japanese bomber struck it during its tenth war patrol;
17 it was deemed lost in action from 1944 until June 4, 2019, when a team of researchers found
18 it in Japanese waters off the coast of Okinawa, 75 years later; and

19 WHEREAS, over the ensuing years, the parents and siblings of James Nicholas Chotas have
20 died, but numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins survive him; and

21 WHEREAS, his surviving family will hold a memorial service according to the rites of the
22 Greek Orthodox Church in the same Annunciation parish in Atlanta where Mimi was
23 baptized and grew up; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the courage, commitment, and patriotism
25 of this heroic Georgian be appropriately recognized and the circumstances of his death be
26 memorialized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and honor James Nicholas Chotas for his service to his
29 country and the ultimate sacrifice he made during that service.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 surviving members of the James Nicholas Chotas family.