

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

P5, P1

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By: **Delegate Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 7, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Recognition of Captain Lambert Wickes of Maryland – Revolutionary War**
3 **Naval Hero**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~designating October 1 of each year as “Captain Lambert Wickes~~
5 ~~Day” in Maryland~~ recognizing the contributions of Captain Lambert Wickes to
6 the American Revolutionary War and America’s legacy of national independence
7 and honoring Captain Wickes’ service and sacrifice as a member of the
8 Continental Navy.

9 WHEREAS, Lambert Wickes was born in Kent County, Maryland around 1742,
10 where he lived on Eastern Neck Island in the family home, Wickcliffe, overlooking the
11 Chesapeake Bay; and

12 WHEREAS, Captain Wickes served as an apprentice sailor and later
13 commanded vessels for prominent Maryland and Pennsylvania merchants, including
14 Thomas Willing and Robert Morris, and was elected to the prestigious Captains of
15 Ships Charitable Club in Philadelphia in 1770; and

16 WHEREAS, In recognition of Captain Wickes’ loyalty to the American cause for
17 independence and his reputable maritime experience, the Continental Congress
18 commissioned him as captain in 1776, placed him in command of the 16-gun Reprisal,
19 the first warship named to reflect America’s intent for retaliatory action against
20 England, and listed Captain Wickes as 11th in seniority in the Continental Navy; and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Wickes’ first major assignment was to join Captain John
22 Barry in giving safe passage to Philadelphia merchants through Delaware Bay and, in
23 June 1776, Captain Wickes and Captain John Barry defended the Continental

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



1 brigantine Nancy when attacked by British men-of-war near Cape May, New Jersey;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In July 1776, the Committee of Secret Correspondence of the
4 Continental Congress commissioned Captain Wickes to transport American agent
5 William Bingham aboard the Reprisal to Saint-Pierre on the Caribbean island of the
6 French colony of Martinique and to return with munitions for George Washington's
7 armies, and while in the West Indies, Captain Wickes captured his first of many
8 vessels as prizes to fund the American Revolution; and

9 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1776, Captain Wickes successfully engaged the HMS
10 Shark near the harbor of Saint-Pierre, a dramatic battle that made Captain Wickes a
11 hero in Martinique, where he became the first American naval captain officially
12 received by a foreign government; and

13 WHEREAS, In October 1776, Captain Wickes was selected for a secret mission
14 to transport Benjamin Franklin to France, and, upon their arrival, Wickes became the
15 first Continental Navy officer – and the Reprisal the first vessel flying the Continental
16 flag – to enter European waters; and

17 WHEREAS, Captain Wickes' Reprisal became the first American warship to
18 base operations in Europe, successfully pursuing the British and their allies in foreign
19 commercial channels; and, in 1777, Captain Wickes commanded America's first
20 forward-deployed squadron in foreign waters; and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Wickes' strategies and diplomacy contributed to France's
22 ultimate decision to abandon neutrality and join America's war against England, an
23 alliance which was a critical factor in America's victory; and

24 WHEREAS, On October 1, 1777, Captain Wickes made the ultimate sacrifice for
25 his country when he perished, along with 128 men aboard the Reprisal, after the ship
26 foundered in a gale off Newfoundland on their return to America; and

27 WHEREAS, Captain Lambert Wickes of the Continental Navy consistently
28 exemplified courage, patriotism, seamanship, initiative, determination, humility, and
29 humanity – yet Captain Wickes has been accorded no military burial and no State or
30 national commemoration befitting his outstanding dedication and personal sacrifice to
31 the United States and generations of Americans; now, therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly recognize the role of
33 Captain Lambert Wickes of Maryland in the successful outcome of the American
34 Revolutionary War and the significance of his contributions to America's legacy of
35 national independence, which has served as a model of liberty for the world; and be it
36 further

37 ~~RESOLVED, That the Maryland General Assembly designate October 1 of each~~
38 ~~year as "Captain Lambert Wickes Day" in Maryland; and be it further~~

1 RESOLVED, That the State of Maryland shall partner with the United States
2 Navy to develop and conduct a fitting memorial event on the grounds of the United
3 States Naval Academy each October 1st honoring the service and sacrifice of
4 Maryland's Captain Lambert Wickes of the Continental Navy; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
6 Legislative Services to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of the
7 United States Congress, the members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the
8 Secretary of the United States Navy, and the Superintendent of the United States
9 Naval Academy.

Approved:

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.