

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 84

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic “NIMITZ” class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. Lexington.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2000

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic “NIMITZ” class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. Lexington.

Whereas over the last three decades Congress has authorized and appropriated funds for a total of 10 “NIMITZ” class aircraft carriers;

Whereas the last vessel in the “NIMITZ” class of aircraft carriers, CVN-77, is currently under construction and will be delivered in 2008;

Whereas the first nine vessels in this class proudly bear the following names:

- (1) U.S.S. Nimitz (CVN-68).

- (2) U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).
- (3) U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN-70).
- (4) U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71).
- (5) U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72).
- (6) U.S.S. George Washington (CVN-73).
- (7) U.S.S. John C. Stennis (CVN-74).
- (8) U.S.S. Harry S. Truman (CVN-75).
- (9) U.S.S. Ronald Reagan (CVN-76).

Whereas it is now time to recommend to the President, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, an appropriate name for the final vessel in the “NIMITZ” class of aircraft carriers;

Whereas over the last 25 years the vessels in the “NIMITZ” class of aircraft carriers have served as one of the principal means of United States diplomacy and as one of the principal means for the defense of the United States and our allies around the world;

Whereas the name bestowed upon aircraft carrier CVN-77 should embody the American spirit and provide a lasting symbol of the American commitment to freedom;

Whereas for the citizens of the United States, the name “Lexington” has been synonymous with defense of freedom from the very first battle of the War of the American Revolution and is taught to American schoolchildren as the place of the “shot heard round the world”, at which our forebears mustered the courage to gain independence;

Whereas the name “Lexington” has been associated with naval aviation from its origins in the 1920s, when Presi-

dent Harding bestowed the name “Lexington” on the second aircraft carrier in United States history;

Whereas that vessel, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-2), also known as the “Fighting Lady”, saw active service from 1927 until lost in 1942 during the historic Battle of the Coral Sea;

Whereas immediately after that loss, President Franklin D. Roosevelt saw fit to bestow the name “Lexington” on a successor aircraft carrier in order to carry on the fighting spirit to preserve freedom;

Whereas that successor aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16), joined the fleet in 1943 and earned 11 battle stars during the Pacific campaigns of World War II as she helped carry the fight to the enemy;

Whereas the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16) continued her service to the United States after World War II, conducting numerous deployments during the Cold War and completing her 48 years of service as a training aircraft carrier for student aviators; and

Whereas upon the completion of her service and in keeping with the traditions of the Navy, the U.S.S. Lexington (CV-16) was stricken from the Navy Vessel Register on November 30, 1991: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the air-  
 3 craft carrier CVN-77 should be named the U.S.S.  
 4 Lexington—

5            (1) in order to honor the men and women who  
 6        served in the Armed Forces of the United States

1 during World War II, and the incalculable number  
2 of United States citizens on the home front during  
3 that war, who mobilized in the name of freedom, and  
4 who are today respectfully referred to as the “Great-  
5 est Generation”; and  
6 (2) as a special tribute to the 16,000,000 vet-  
7 erans of the Armed Forces who served on land, sea,  
8 and air during World War II, of whom less than  
9 6,000,000 remain alive today, and serve as a lasting  
10 symbol of commitment to freedom as they pass on  
11 and proudly take their place in history.

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