

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6198

To express the sense of Congress regarding the naming of a naval vessel
for Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. LATTA) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding the naming of
a naval vessel for Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rear Admiral Alene
5 Duerk Ship Renaming Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NAMING OF**
7 **NAVAL VESSEL FOR REAR ADMIRAL ALENE**
8 **DUERK.**

9 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a vessel

1 of the United States Navy the “U.S.S. Rear Admiral
2 Alene Duerk” in honor of Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, for
3 the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

4 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor
5 described in this subsection are the actions of Alene
6 Duerk, as a member of the United States Navy, as follows:

7 (1) Following Rear Admiral Duerk’s birth in
8 Defiance, Ohio and graduation from Toledo Hospital
9 School of Nursing, she received a commission on
10 January 23, 1943, and was appointed as an ensign
11 in the Nurse Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

12 (2) During World War II, she was assigned as
13 a Ward Nurse at the Naval Medical Center Ports-
14 mouth, Portsmouth, Virginia, and at the Naval Hos-
15 pital, Bethesda Maryland where she cared for
16 wounded members of the United States Armed
17 Forces. In 1945, she was stationed on the USS Be-
18 nevolence in the Pacific Theater (AH-13) where she
19 treated casualties from Third Fleet operations until
20 the end of the war.

21 (3) After the war, she progressed in rank and
22 served in positions of increasing responsibility in
23 both the Navy Reserves and Active Duty including
24 posts in Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois,
25 the Philippines, Japan, California, and Washington,

1 DC. Her dedication and inspirational service cul-
2 minated with her historic selection for the rank of
3 Rear Admiral on April 16, 1972, as the first woman
4 to become a flag officer.

5 (4) Rear Admiral Duerk was awarded the
6 Naval Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal,
7 the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze
8 Star, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Oc-
9 cupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp, and the Na-
10 tional Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star.

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