

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating April 11, 2018, as the “Sesquicentennial of Connecticut’s Navy Installation”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating April 11, 2018, as the “Sesquicentennial of
Connecticut’s Navy Installation”.

Whereas the Navy Installation of Connecticut, regarded as
Naval Submarine Base New London, had its beginning
as a naval yard and storage depot on April 11, 1868;

Whereas the people of Connecticut made the installation pos-
sible when a deed of gift from the State of Connecticut
and city of New London was signed, conveyed, and pre-
sented to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles;

Whereas the Navy Installation of Connecticut was first used
for laying up inactive ships, then for refueling small
naval ships traveling through the waters of New England,
and ultimately as the first submarine base of the United
States Navy;

Whereas October 18, 1915, marked the arrival at the Navy Installation of Connecticut of the submarines G-1, G-2, and G-4 under the care of the tender USS *Ozark* (Monitor No. 7), soon followed by the arrival of submarines E-1, D-1, and D-3 under the care of the tender USS *Tonopah* (Monitor No. 8), and on November 2, 1915, the arrival of the first ship built as a submarine tender, the USS *Fulton* (AS-1);

Whereas, on June 21, 1916, Commander Yates Stirling, Jr., assumed the command of the newly designated Naval Submarine Base New London, the New London Submarine Flotilla, and the Submarine School;

Whereas the property of Naval Submarine Base New London expanded during the course of the involvement of the United States in World War I, with Congress approving more than \$1,000,000 for real estate and facilities expansion, which created 81 buildings to support 1,400 men and 20 submarines by the end of World War I;

Whereas the second largest expansion of Naval Submarine Base New London occurred during World War II when the submarine force exponentially grew in size, and the installation enlarged from 112 acres to 497 acres to accommodate the thousands of personnel that serviced the growing fleet;

Whereas the nuclear power age following World War II ushered technological advancements in submarine development with the advent of nuclear powered submarines and the arrival of the USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), the first nuclear powered vessel in the world, when it was commissioned in 1954 at Naval Submarine Base New London;

Whereas the USS *George Washington* (SSBN-598), the first nuclear ballistic submarine of the United States Navy, created further changes at Naval Submarine Base New London when it was commissioned there in 1959;

Whereas, in 2018, Naval Submarine Base New London extends along the east side of the Thames River, occupies approximately 687 acres, and houses more than 160 major facilities and more than 15 nuclear submarines;

Whereas Naval Submarine Base New London supports fleet readiness by providing quality service and facilities to its fleet, fighters, and families;

Whereas the mission of Naval Submarine Base New London is—

- (1) to homeport and put submarines to sea; and
- (2) to support the Submarine Center of Excellence, which trains submariners to take submarines to sea;

Whereas nearly every submariner in the United States Navy will be stationed at Naval Submarine Base New London for training, with a potential tour of duty in one of the attack submarines homeported at the installation, or with a pre-commissioning unit for a new submarine under construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut;

Whereas Naval Submarine Base New London is home to more than 70 tenant commands and activities including—

- (1) the Undersea Warfighting Development Center;
- (2) the Submarine Learning Center;
- (3) the Naval Submarine School;
- (4) the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory; and

(5) the Naval Undersea Medical Institute;

Whereas Naval Submarine Base New London is one of the largest employers in southeastern Connecticut and employs more than 9,500 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel; and

Whereas Naval Submarine Base New London will always be regarded as the first and finest submarine base of the United States Navy and the home of the submarine force: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates April 11, 2018, as the “Sesqui-
3 centennial of Connecticut’s Navy Installation”;

4 (2) commends the longstanding dedication and
5 contribution to the Navy by the people of Con-
6 necticut, both through the initial deed of gift that
7 established the Navy Installation of Connecticut, and
8 through their ongoing commitment to support the
9 mission and people assigned to the installation, pres-
10 ently known as Naval Submarine Base New London;

11 (3) honors the sailors and submariners who
12 have trained and served at the Navy Installation of
13 Connecticut throughout its 150-year history in sup-
14 port of the naval and undersea superiority of the
15 United States;

16 (4) recognizes the indispensable role Naval Sub-
17 marine Base New London plays in fortifying the na-

1 tional security of the United States at a time when
2 adversaries seek to challenge the United States; and
3 (5) pledges continued support for the operation
4 of Naval Submarine Base New London for years to
5 come.