

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 285470

ADOPTED ON MAR 20 1995

WHEREAS, on March 19, 1945, the U.S.S. Franklin (C.V. 13) was part of an aircraft carrier task force, stationed off the coast of Japan to take part in naval aircraft operations against Japan in World War II; and

WHEREAS, in command of the U.S.S. Franklin was then-Captain Leslie E. Gehres, U.S.N.; and

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of that day, a Japanese aircraft struck the U.S.S. Franklin with two 500 lb. bombs, causing the U.S.S. Franklin's store of ammunition and fuel to explode, inflicting massive casualties, and severely damaging the U.S.S. Franklin, leaving her listing badly and without both power and navigational ability less than 60 miles off the coast of Japan; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving the U.S.S. Franklin after the attack, an admiral in command of the task force recommended to Captain Gehres that the U.S.S. Franklin be abandoned; and

WHEREAS, Captain Gehres did not order the U.S.S. Franklin abandoned but, rather, through the extraordinary efforts of her crew, and the crew of the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Santa Fe, the U.S.S. Franklin regained her trim, power and navigational ability; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.S. Franklin made her way to Hawaii and eventually arrived in New York City under her own power; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her ordeal and triumph, the U.S.S. Franklin and her crew became the most decorated ship and crew in United States naval history, including two medal of honor winners; and

WHEREAS, a number of the survivors of the U.S.S. Franklin settled in and around The City of San Diego, or were from the San Diego area, including Captain Gehres who, following World War II, attained the rank of Rear Admiral and provided considerable public service throughout the rest of his life to this City and its citizens; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of The City of San Diego, that this Council hereby encourages all citizens to remember and honor the U.S.S. Franklin and her crew who made great sacrifices and overcame tremendous adversity in serving their country in time of need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the attack on the U.S.S. Franklin, March 19, 1995 be and is hereby proclaimed to be "U.S.S. FRANKLIN DAY" in The City of San Diego.

APPROVED: JOHN W. WITT, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett
Senior Chief Deputy

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