

Reps. Segal, Barnett, Darany, Dillon, Durhal, Heise, Kowall, LeBlanc, Liss, O'Brien, Potvin, Slavens, Switalski, Talabi and Tlaib offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 281.

A resolution in support of naming a new United States Navy Littoral Combat Ship for Battle Creek, Michigan.

Whereas, The following active and stricken ships have, or have had, name ties to the State of Michigan: USS Detroit, USS Flint, USS Grand Rapids, USS Gerald R. Ford, USS Grayling, USS Isle Royale, USS John C. Calhoun, USS Kalamazoo, USS Lake Erie, USS Michigan, USS Saginaw, and USS Saugatuck; and

Whereas, Battle Creek, Michigan is a unique military community with a long and rich history of service to the United States of America; and

Whereas, Beginning in 1917 with the establishment of Camp Custer as the Midwest's largest Army training site, Battle Creek was the induction point for tens of thousands of soldiers in World Wars I and II; and

Whereas, Fort Custer continues today as a 6,000-acre National Guard and Reserve Midwest Training site for the National Guard and civilian law enforcement agencies and is part of Battle Creek's Joint Reserve Base; and

Whereas, Battle Creek is also home to Michigan's Air National Guard and the 110th Airlift Wing and Battle Creek airmen have been deployed multiple times with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Operation Deny Flight in Kosovo and have served in wartime efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, Based at the W.K. Kellogg Airport, with a 10,000-foot runway, the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard is now flying the C-21 as an interim mission, awaiting the delivery of the new C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft and was named the top flying squadron in the Air National Guard in 2008 and earned numerous other awards over the years; and

Whereas, Battle Creek is home to the Hart-Dole-Inouye (HDI) Federal Center which houses two major commands of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and HDI is home to DLA Logistics Information Service and DLA Disposition Services with field offices all around the Globe which provide logistics and supplies to war fighters everywhere; and

Whereas, The historic Hart-Dole-Inouye building began as the Kellogg Sanitarium, the world's premier health spa in the first part of the 20th century through World War II. Following WWII, the building became the Percy Jones Army Hospital and was the nation's leading recovery site for critically injured and amputee veterans. Among those who recovered in Battle Creek were future United States Senators Bob Dole, Dan Inouye and Philip Hart, for whom the building is now named; and

Whereas, Battle Creek and the entire state of Michigan have also had a strong Navy presence since World War II, when a Reserve Center was established on Goguac Lake. At the time, many lake residents offered the use of their Chris-Craft boats for weekend training on the lake and a formal reserve center was later established near Fort Custer, at one time having a drilling population of nearly 300 officers and enlisted personnel; and

Whereas, The reserve center was also home to a detachment of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, one of the two major NATO strategic commands for many years, as well as, several active ship detachments; and

Whereas, In the summer of 2012, a new Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) will be commissioned on Fort Custer as part of the Navy's commitment to Battle Creek and our joint efforts; and

Whereas, This new NOSC will consolidate Navy Reserve operations from Grand Rapids and Lansing, Michigan into one West Michigan NOSC which will represent a major cost savings for the Navy and Navy Reserve as well as offer Navy Reservists access to training and educational facilities on Fort Custer; and

Whereas, The U.S. Marine Corps has also had a presence in Battle Creek for many years and presently two USMC Bridge and Engineering companies will take over the former Navy Reserve Center and continue their presence in the city; and

Whereas, Battle Creek has Marine Units from around the Nation come to train on Engineer Lake; and

Whereas, Many Marines from Battle Creek and the entire state of Michigan have been individually deployed in the Global War on Terrorism and the community has fully and publically supported their efforts; and

Whereas, One of our state's proudest moments came in the wake of Hurricane Katrina when four plane loads of New Orleans refugees were airlifted to Battle Creek, where soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and many other civilians came together on Labor Day weekend to help transport, treat and help them adjust and recover at Fort Custer. Many of these victims had no idea where they were going when they were loaded on a plane and were separated from their families, but Michigan welcomed them with open arms and compassion, which led some of them to stay permanently in the area; and

Whereas, Battle Creek and the entire state of Michigan have gone far beyond simply supporting war fighters and have also taken care of our nation's wounded and disabled veterans for years, as the home to the Regional Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which treats more than 75,000 veterans annually from all around the Midwest; and

Whereas, Battle Creek has also honored veterans from nearly every conflict our nation has been engaged in with the final tribute and burial at Fort Custer National Cemetery where more than 38,000 American Heroes rest in honored glory; and

Whereas, Fort Custer National Cemetery is the 7th largest cemetery in the National Cemetery Administration and one of the only national cemeteries with an all-volunteer honor guard of veterans who render honors to each veteran being interred; and

Whereas, Battle Creek is a leader in joint cooperation and the community has embraced all of its military services for many years, working together and mirroring the Littoral Combat Ship mission of joint inter-operability and true American Pride; and

Whereas, Battle Creek has been labeled "The Best Known City of its Size in the World," in large part, because of its significant military contributions, its cereal industry giants like Kellogg, Post and Ralston, and it is the world headquarters of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and

Whereas, The naming of a Littoral Combat Ship for the city enjoys widespread community support, including but not limited to the Battle Creek-Kalamazoo Chapter of the Navy League of the United States, the USS Battle Creek Committee, Battle Creek Unlimited, and the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, The city of Battle Creek, as proven by their long history of proudly providing support to their exceptional military community, would undoubtedly provide ongoing support to the crew and its successors for many years to come; and

Whereas, Naming a Littoral Combat Ship, a truly joint warship, for Battle Creek, a truly joint community, would be mutually beneficial to the Navy and the state of Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body support the naming of a new United States Navy Littoral Combat Ship for the city of Battle Creek, Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of Defense, the United States Secretary of the Navy, and the members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.