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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 447

Offered February 13, 2009

*Commending Commander David W. Alldridge and the crew of the USS Newport News (SSN 750) on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the submarine's commissioning.*

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Patron—Miller, J.C.

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WHEREAS, June 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the commissioning of the nuclear attack submarine USS *Newport News* (SSN 750), constructed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in the City of Newport News; and

WHEREAS, the submarine USS *Newport News* is the eighth vessel to bear the name of this proud shipbuilding city; and

WHEREAS, three previous ships, including the heavy cruiser USS *Newport News* (CA 148), the most decorated ship from the East Coast during the Vietnam campaign, have seen naval service; and

WHEREAS, since its commissioning in June 1989, the submarine USS *Newport News* has steamed more than 500,000 nautical miles in support of the nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, the USS *Newport News* has provided emergent wartime Tomahawk strike warfare and intelligence support during Operation Desert Storm, its deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the USS *Newport News*, with the stealth, readiness, endurance, flexibility, and mission capability of a 688 Class nuclear fast attack submarine, has shown the flag during 40 foreign port visits and four transits of the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, the USS *Newport News* has provided services for seven major multinational battle groups during NATO exercises, has conducted an emergent WESTLANT deployment, and has participated in the commemoration of the Allied landings at Normandy, Operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic Sea, and Operation Southern Watch in the Red Sea; and

WHEREAS, the USS *Newport News* has recorded several firsts in the submarine force, including first to conduct successful launches of and upgrade of the Tomahawk Cruise Missile during both horizontally and vertically launched live-firing missile tests; first to provide a submarine launch of ADCAP torpedoes employing the most updated operational software; the first operational test launch of a BLK IV Tomahawk missile; first to transit the Suez Canal for emergent tasking; first to be graded "excellent" in tactical readiness since the current formal inspection team was formed; and first to deploy with the Advanced Technical Information System, a network computer system located throughout the ship that improves the speed and efficiency of accessing technical information; and

WHEREAS, the USS *Newport News* has been awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, two Arctic Service Ribbons, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three bronze stars, Navy Expeditionary Medal with one bronze star, Meritorious Unit Citation, Navy Unit Citation, Sea Service Ribbon with one silver star and one bronze star, and the second Navy Expeditionary Medal with two bronze stars; and

WHEREAS, the motto of the USS *Newport News*, *Magni Nominis Umbra*, relates the ship's name to the well-established shipbuilding and naval traditions of the City of Newport News and the distinguished careers of the naval ships that have proudly carried this name; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Commander David W. Alldridge and the crew of the USS *Newport News* (SSN 750) on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the ship's commissioning; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Commander David W. Alldridge as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the USS *Newport News*' value to the Commonwealth and to the nation.

INTRODUCED

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