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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives honoring the men of the USS *Liberty*, urging the declassification of all records relating to the June 8, 1967, attack, and affirming that the lives and safety of United States citizens and servicemembers shall be paramount in the conduct of United States foreign policy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives honoring the men of the USS *Liberty*, urging the declassification of all records relating to the June 8, 1967, attack, and affirming that the lives and safety of United States citizens and servicemembers shall be paramount in the conduct of United States foreign policy.

Whereas, on June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty* and her crew of 294 was operating in international waters;

Whereas an unprovoked attack by Israeli warplanes and torpedo boats resulted in the death of 34 Americans and the wounding of 174 others;

Whereas Israeli Mirage Jets conducted multiple sorties, attacking the USS *Liberty* with rockets, cannons, and napalm, and following the air assault, three Israeli motor torpedo boats fired multiple torpedoes, one of which struck the *Liberty* on the starboard side;

Whereas eyewitness accounts from crew members of the USS *Liberty* testified that 3 lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by crew to save the most seriously wounded were machine-gunned by Israeli torpedo boats;

Whereas, upon receiving distress signals from the USS *Liberty*, the USS *saratoga* and the USS *america* launched aircraft in response to the attack to defend the *Liberty*;

Whereas all of the aircraft were recalled before they were able to assist the *Liberty*;

Whereas, under the command of the severely wounded Captain William L. McGonagle, the officers and crew of the USS *liberty* fought alone for 17 hours to save their ship, care for their wounded shipmates, and overcome severe battle damage, often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations with complete disregard for their own safety, until they finally rendezvoused with the USS *Davis*, USS *Massey*, and USS *Little Rock*;

Whereas, having suffered through the attack and subsequent recovery, the crew were informed that under penalty of arrest, fines, and imprisonment, they were forbidden to speak about the incident which further compounded the effects of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas Captain Ward Boston, Jr., senior legal counsel to the Navy Court of Inquiry reviewing the USS *Liberty* incident, in a signed, sworn affidavit, attested that he and Admiral Isaac Kidd believed the attack was a “deliberate

effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. . . that the Israeli attack was planned and deliberate, and could not possibly have been an accident”, but were pressured politically to conclude otherwise;

Whereas Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote in a 1997 letter that he, “never believed the attack on the USS *Liberty* was a case of mistaken identity. That is ridiculous. . . Israel knew the *Liberty* could intercept radio messages from all parties. . . to the ongoing war. . . and that Israel was preparing to seize the Golan Heights from Syria despite President Johnson’s known opposition”, that Israel wanted to prevent Washington from interfering in that campaign, and “the result was a wanton sneak attack”;

Whereas Admiral Thomas Moorer wrote, “What is so chilling and cold-blooded, of course, is that [Israel] could kill as many Americans as they did in confidence that Washington would cooperate in quelling any public outcry”;

Whereas Dean Rusk, former Secretary of State, wrote, “there is every reason to believe that the USS *Liberty* was identified, or at least her nationality determined, by Israeli aircraft approximately one hour before the attack. In these circumstances, the later military attack by Israeli aircraft on the USS *Liberty* is quite literally incomprehensible,” Richard Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he did not think there could be “any doubt that the Israelis knew exactly what they were doing,” and Bobby Ray Inman, former Director of the National Security Agency, “flatly rejected” the Israeli explanation that the attack on the USS *Liberty* was a case of misidentification, stating, “it is just exceedingly dif-

difficult to believe that [the *Liberty*] was not correctly identified”;

Whereas, during the attack, the USS *Liberty* flew a 5 x 8 and a 7 x 13 foot American flag, with the English letters L-I-B-E-R-T-Y on the ship’s stern, making it distinguishable from Egyptian vessels; and

Whereas, despite the valor displayed by the crew of the USS *Liberty* and the decorations awarded for their actions, many aspects of the attack and its aftermath remain shrouded in secrecy and controversy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the gallant service and sacrifice
3 of the crew of the USS *Liberty* in defense of their
4 ship and fellow sailors during the attack of June 8,
5 1967;

6 (2) honors the lives, service, and memories of
7 William B. Allenbaugh of Baltimore, Maryland; Phil-
8 ip McCutcheon Armstrong, Jr. of Detroit, Michigan;
9 Gary R. Blanchard of Wichita, Kansas; Allen M.
10 Blue of Yakima, Washington; Francis Brown of Al-
11 bany, New York; Ronnie J. Campbell of Sevierville,
12 Tennessee; Jerry L. Converse of Puyallup, Wash-
13 ington; Robert B. Eisenberg of St. Paul, Minnesota;
14 Jerry L. Goss of North Vernon, Indiana; Curtis A.
15 Graves of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; Lawrence
16 P. Hayden of Houston, Texas; Warren E. Hersey of

1 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Alan Higgins of Wey-
2 mouth, Massachusetts; Carl L. Hoar of Mount
3 Vernon, Ohio; Richard W. Keene, Jr. of Batavia,
4 New York; James L. Lenau of Washington, Mis-
5 souri; Raymond E. Linn of Adamsville, Ohio; James
6 M. Lupton of Shreveport, Louisiana; Duane R.
7 Marggraf of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; David W.
8 Marlborough of Waterville, Maine; Anthony P.
9 Mendle of Waterbury, Connecticut; Carl C. Nygren
10 of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; James C. Pierce of
11 Clinton, North Carolina; Jack L. Raper of
12 Cedartown, Georgia; Edward E. Rehmeier III of
13 York, Pennsylvania; David Skolak of Gary, Indiana;
14 John C. Smith, Jr. of Ithaca, New York; Melvin D.
15 Smith of Alamance, North Carolina; John C.
16 Spicher of Tarentum, Pennsylvania; Alexander N.
17 Thompson, Jr. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Thom-
18 as R. Thornton of Springfield, Ohio; Philippe C.
19 Tiedtke of Santa Cruz, California; Stephen S. Toth
20 of San Diego, California; Frederick J. Walton of Ni-
21 agara Falls, New York, who died as a result of the
22 attack;

23 (3) urges the President to declassify and make
24 publicly available all records, documents, reports,
25 memoranda, communications, photographs, record-

1 ings, transcripts, intelligence assessments, oper-
2 ational records, after-action reports, investigative
3 files, briefing materials, diplomatic communications,
4 and internal communications of the Department of
5 Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Na-
6 tional Security Agency, and any other department or
7 agency of the United States Government relating to
8 the June 8, 1967, attack on the USS *Liberty*; and
9 (4) affirms that the lives and safety of United
10 States citizens and servicemembers shall be held
11 paramount in the conduct of the foreign policy of
12 the United States and shall not be subordinated to
13 the interests of any foreign nation.