

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4609, by Representatives MacEwen and Griffey

1 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is a vital component of a national
2 defense structure; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Navy submarine USS Olympia is paying a
4 goodwill visit to the Puget Sound area, and representatives of its
5 crew are calling on the vessel's namesake city for the first time
6 since 1998; and

7 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia, based at Pearl Harbor under the command
8 of Benjamin J. Selph, is a Los Angeles-class submarine launched in
9 1983 and commissioned in 1984, one of a new generation of nuclear-
10 powered attack submarines that boasted the most advanced technology
11 of their time; and

12 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles-class submarine fleet has been updated
13 and refitted, and remains a bulwark of our national defense, and 36
14 of the original 62 submarines remain in service, making it the single
15 largest class of operating submarines in the world; and

16 WHEREAS, Each Los Angeles-class submarine is staffed by a crew of
17 approximately 120, carries approximately 25 torpedoes, is capable of
18 firing Tomahawk-class missiles, and can travel over 20 knots an hour,
19 or 23 mph, surfaced or underwater, though top speed is classified;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is named after the city of Olympia, just
22 as other Los Angeles-class submarines are named after other American
23 cities; and

1 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is a storied name in the annals of Naval
2 history and the submarine is the second vessel to bear the name, the
3 first being the historic cruiser USS Olympia, the flagship of
4 Commodore George Dewey at the Battle of Manila Bay in 1898, aboard
5 which Dewey uttered the immortal words "fire when ready" before
6 attacking the Spanish fleet, and today is the last surviving vessel
7 of the famed 'Great White Fleet,' now serving as a museum ship docked
8 in Philadelphia; and

9 WHEREAS, The submarine USS Olympia has long been a point of pride
10 for Olympia and all of Thurston County, and the visits of its crew to
11 the city are fondly remembered by community leaders; and

12 WHEREAS, The submarine USS Olympia's lengthy record of service
13 includes a historic 1998 transit of the Suez Canal, making it the
14 first Pacific-based submarine to travel the length of the canal in
15 more than 35 years; and

16 WHEREAS, The Navy's presence in the state of Washington includes
17 Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Station Whidbey Island, Naval Station
18 Everett, Naval Magazine Indian Island, and more than 100 supported
19 Navy commands and units including the USS Olympia; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Navy in the state of Washington
21 employs more than 20,000 active duty personnel, 5,000 reservists,
22 15,000 contractors, and 17,000 Navy civilian personnel, and there are
23 more than 42,000 members of Navy families in the state and more than
24 55,000 retirees; and

25 WHEREAS, The Navy is one of the state's largest employers,
26 infusing more than 5 billion dollars each year into the state's
27 economy;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
29 recognize the important contributions of the submarine USS Olympia on
30 its crew's visit to its namesake city; that the House of
31 Representatives' respect for the USS Olympia and its crew be extended
32 to all who serve in the nation's armed forces; and that the crew of
33 the USS Olympia be welcomed to Washington's capital; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
35 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
36 Representatives to the Commanding Officer of the USS Olympia, the
37 Secretary of the United States Navy, and the President of the United
38 States.

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2 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
3 Resolution 4609 adopted by the House of Representatives
4 January 26, 2017
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10 Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk