

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 656

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The valiant service of the USS *Henry A. Wiley* (DM 29)
2 is being commemorated with a plaque at the National Museum of the
3 Pacific War on March 17, 2007, and a number of the courageous
4 sailors who served as its crew are gathering for this memorable
5 occasion; and

6 WHEREAS, Commissioned in 1944, the USS *Henry A. Wiley* began
7 its illustrious history escorting the USS *Texas*, USS *Missouri*, and
8 USS *Arkansas* on the long journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific
9 Ocean via the Panama Canal; in February 1945, the ship was called
10 into battle for the invasion of Iwo Jima; situated only 400 yards
11 off shore, it fired more than 3,600 rounds and destroyed nine
12 pillboxes in support of marine infantry, including the unit that
13 raised the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi; and

14 WHEREAS, The ship subsequently proceeded to Okinawa, where it
15 supported minesweeping operations and helped secure Kerama Retto
16 before the U.S. invasion; it then performed radar picket,
17 patrolling, screening, bombardment, and mine removal duties for
18 nearly five months, destroying numerous Japanese aircraft; on May
19 4, 1945, while going to the aid of the sinking USS *Luce* DD-522, the
20 *Henry A. Wiley* came under heavy air attack, and during a furious
21 15-minute engagement, it downed three kamikazes and two Baka bombs,
22 before playing a significant role in rescuing survivors of the
23 *Luce*; and

24 WHEREAS, Before returning home on January 17, 1946, the USS

1 *Henry A. Wiley* participated in further minesweeping and mine
2 destruction operations in the East China Sea and off the coasts of
3 Japan, Korea, and Taiwan; and

4 WHEREAS, The USS *Henry A. Wiley* earned four battle stars for
5 its participation in the Pacific War, and it was awarded the
6 Presidential Unit Citation for heroic service during the battle of
7 Okinawa; in addition, Captain Paul H. Bjarnason, commanding officer
8 of the *Henry A. Wiley* at Okinawa, was awarded the Navy Cross and the
9 Legion of Merit; the ship was decommissioned in 1947; and

10 WHEREAS, The USS *Henry A. Wiley* (DM 29) distinguished itself
11 with might, precision, and tenacity during crucial campaigns of the
12 Pacific War, emerging with minimal damage and no loss of life, and
13 it is indeed fitting to honor this remarkable ship and its brave
14 crew for their exemplary service in behalf of their fellow
15 Americans; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize March 17, 2007, as *Henry A. Wiley* Day
18 and salute the ship's crew members for their gallantry during World
19 War II.