

By: Farias

H.R. No. 863

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Every two years, the USS *Platte* AO-24 Association
2 brings together former crew members of that navy ship to renew
3 friendships and to reflect on their service to the nation, and it is
4 a pleasure to welcome the group to San Antonio for its 2014 reunion;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The USS *Platte* AO-24 was built in Baltimore and
7 commissioned by the United States Navy in 1939; in World War II, the
8 ship supported American combat vessels involved in the Battle of
9 Midway and in operations in the Solomon Islands, including the
10 crucial fighting at Guadalcanal; the *Platte* later fueled and
11 assisted other navy ships in the Pacific theater until the
12 surrender of Japanese forces in 1945, and then it served as a
13 station tanker at Japanese ports while the country was occupied by
14 U.S. forces; and

15 WHEREAS, During the Korean War, the ship carried out missions
16 in 1951 and 1952 in which it played a vital role in combat
17 operations; based out of its home port of Long Beach, California,
18 the *Platte* went on to complete numerous deployments over the next
19 two decades that took it to ports throughout East and Southeast
20 Asia; when the U.S. became involved in the conflict in Vietnam, the
21 ship took part in its third war, and it continued to be a valuable
22 part of the 7th Fleet until it was decommissioned in the early
23 1970s; all told, the *Platte* earned a total of 22 battle stars; and

24 WHEREAS, Lynn Todd, a crew member at the time of the Korean

1 War, organized the USS *Platte* AO-24 Association in 1999 and devoted
2 himself to seeking out others who had been stationed on the vessel;
3 today, the association's membership includes individuals who
4 served on the ship throughout its history; to help rekindle the
5 esprit de corps of these former crew members, the association began
6 holding reunions on a biennial basis, with the first gathering
7 taking place in 2002 in Platte City, Missouri; the following year,
8 members of the association took part in the dedication ceremony, in
9 which the ship's bell was delivered to the county courthouse in
10 Platte City to be permanently displayed; and

11 WHEREAS, The brave men of the USS *Platte* rendered invaluable
12 service to the United States armed forces over a period of more than
13 three decades, and their valor and dedication to duty are truly
14 deserving of profound appreciation; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2014 reunion of the USS *Platte*
17 AO-24 Association and extend to the event's organizers and
18 participants sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable
19 visit to San Antonio; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.