

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Urging the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a United States naval vessel after General Clifton B. Cates.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS from time-to-time the United States has produced great men whose numerous deeds of valor and honor evidence their greatness and make a listing of the details of their heroic service unnecessary; and

WHEREAS in the annals of the military history of the United States there have been few men of the august stature of General Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, a man whose military career served the most inviolate principles of freedom and preparedness and stands as exemplary testimony to the irrefutable value of the American way of life; and

WHEREAS Clifton B. Cates entered the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant in 1917 at the beginning of World War I, and during the course of the swiftly-moving two years that followed, the young man from Tiptonville, Tennessee, found his true element, and the Marine Corps found one of its most capable and colorful leaders; and

WHEREAS immediately after completion of officer training, Lieutenant Cates found himself commanding troops as a platoon leader in the 96th Company, Sixth Marines, and his battalion sailed for France in January 1918; and

WHEREAS General Cates holds the singular distinction of being the most decorated Marine Corps officer of World War I, having been awarded the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross with Oak-Leaf Cluster, Silver Star with Oak-Leaf Cluster, and Purple Heart for his meritorious military service, while France conferred upon him the Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre with

one gilt star and two palms; and

WHEREAS in June 1944, near the end of the Saipan operation Major General Cates returned to the Pacific to assume the post of Commanding General of the Fourth Marine Division and commanded the division in the assault of Tinian, throughout Iwo Jima, and for the remainder of World War II; and

WHEREAS on January 1, 1948, Major General Cates was promoted to general and assumed the prestigious post of Commandant of the Marine Corps, in which office he was destined to have an eventful administration; and

WHEREAS when the outbreak of hostilities in Korea presented the commandant with an emergency, General Cates, with great organization, efficiency and alacrity, was able to send the First Provisional Marine Brigade and its air component to the Far East within nine days following the order for its activation; and

WHEREAS General Cates' administration as commandant witnessed the practical development by the Marine Corps of two important tactical innovations, the helicopter and body armor; and

WHEREAS current United States naval policy favors the selection of heroes of the naval service when vessels are named, with only a very few marines being singled out for this distinguished honor; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature feels that it would be very fitting to name an appropriate United States naval vessel in honor of General Clifton B. Cates, a marine of great distinction, courage, and character whose unremitting service to his country spanned three wars and five decades;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a United States naval vessel after General Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William Ball, III, U. S. Secretary of the Navy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.