

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 18

Subject USS Liberty Recognition

Referred to Convention Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1967 the U.S.S. Liberty and her crew of 294 (including 3 civilians) were operating in international waters and an unprovoked attack by Israeli war planes and torpedo boats resulted in the death of 14 Americans including five from New York State and the wounding of 174 others; and

WHEREAS, after sending out distress calls stating the ship was under attack and requires immediate assistance, the attack continued for approximately 22 minutes, involving 20 to 35 sorties and following the air attack, three Israeli motor torpedo boats fired five torpedoes, one of which strikes the U.S.S. Liberty on the starboard side resulting in the deaths of twenty – five (25) of the thirty – four (34) men killed; and

WHEREAS, the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty fought valiantly to overcome the battle damage that included severe structural damage and save their ship, often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations, in total disregard for their personal safety, finally succeeding in reaching port; and

WHEREAS, due to the sensitive nature of the U.S.S. Liberty's equipment and documents, crew members, still reeling from the attack, with some having suffered wounds during the attack, were tasked with entering the severely damaged area and recovering the bodies, and body parts of their fellow shipmates; and

WHEREAS, having suffered through the attack and subsequent recovery, the crew was informed that under penalty of arrest, fines, and imprisonment, they were forbidden to speak about the incident; and

WHEREAS, because of unsupported statements by some U.S. Government officials that the attack was accidental, the U.S.S. Liberty survivors have been vilified in some quarters for over 50 years because they refuse to be part of the government's cover – up; and

WHEREAS, at its National Convention in 2017, the American Legion adopted Resolution #40 calling upon the United States Congress “to publicly, impartially, and thoroughly investigate the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty, and its aftermath”; and

WHEREAS, no memorial befitting the heroic actions of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty has been established due in part to the incident being shrouded in controversy, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of New York in convention assembled July 19th-21st, 2018 in Rochester, New York that the American Legion urge the New York State Legislature to formally recognize the date June 8th as U.S.S. Liberty Day now and forever and, dedicate a memorial befitting the courage and dedication of the U.S.S. Liberty's crew and the five New York sailors who lost their lives be placed in Albany, New York

FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE

Approved _____ Rejected _____

Approved with Amendments X _____

Consolidated with _____

Referred to Standing Committee on _____

Received and Recorded _____

Other Action _____

Signature _____
(Chairman)

Adjutant Signature

County

Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.

John B. Sampson, Chairman
Name

Department Resolutions Committee
Title