
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8017

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Rasmussen and Winsley

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 WHEREAS, Admiral James S. Russell was a Tacoma native, who attended
2 Stadium High School and graduated at the age of 15 to begin his naval
3 career with the Merchant Marine in 1918 after spying wooden vessels
4 below Stadium Way in Tacoma; and

5 WHEREAS, Admiral Russell was appointed to the Naval Academy in
6 Annapolis at the age of 19, where he graduated 15th of 450 in 1926; and

7 WHEREAS, Admiral Russell went on to fly as a naval aviator from the
8 first six aircraft carriers owned by the United States, to serve during
9 the Aleutian Campaign and in the Pacific Theater during World War II,
10 and to command aircraft carriers and carrier divisions; and

11 WHEREAS, Admiral Russell codesigned the "Crusader," the first ship-
12 based supersonic aircraft and commanded the U.S.S. Bairoko, which was
13 equipped with the first Navy jet fighter; and

14 WHEREAS, Admiral Russell completed his illustrious 43 year career
15 as a U.S. Navy four-star Admiral and Vice Chief of Naval Operations and
16 Commander-In-Chief of NATO forces in Southern Europe while keeping
17 Tacoma as his home and having served as Past Director of the Pierce
18 County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Puget Sound Area U.S.O.,
19 Annie Wright Seminary, and the Tacoma Boat Building Company and as past
20 member of the Tacoma Yacht Club and the Tacoma-Pierce County and
21 Lakewood Area Chambers of Commerce; and

1 WHEREAS, The community and the Military Affairs Subcommittee would
2 like to acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of
3 Admiral Russell by bestowing the name of the "Admiral James S. Russell
4 Bridge" to the new cable stay bridge that crosses the Thea Foss
5 Waterway on the SR-509 route; and

6 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature supports the actions and
7 proposals of the community and the Military Affairs Subcommittee;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully ask that the
9 Washington Transportation Commission take appropriate action to name
10 the SR-509 bridge the "Admiral James S. Russell Bridge."

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Washington Transportation Commission.

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