

SENATE RESOLUTION

8607

By Senator Sheldon

1 WHEREAS, The United States Navy submarine USS Olympia is paying a
2 goodwill visit to the Puget Sound area, and a large contingent of its
3 crew is calling on the vessel's namesake city for the first time
4 since 1998; and

5 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia, based at Pearl Harbor under the command
6 of Benjamin J. Selph, is a Los Angeles-class submarine launched in
7 1983 and commissioned in 1984, one of a new generation of nuclear
8 powered attack submarines that boasted the most advanced technology
9 of their time; and

10 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles-class submarine fleet has been updated
11 and refitted, and remains a bulwark of our national defense, and 36
12 of the original 62 submarines remain in service, making it the single
13 largest class of operating submarines in the world; and

14 WHEREAS, Each Los Angeles-class submarine is staffed by a crew of
15 approximately 120, carries approximately 25 torpedoes, is capable of
16 firing Tomahawk-class missiles, and can travel over 20 knots an hour,
17 or 23 mph, surfaced or underwater, though top speed is classified;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is named after the city of Olympia, just
20 as other Los Angeles-class submarines are named after other American
21 cities; and

22 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is a storied name in the annals of Naval
23 history and the submarine is the second vessel to bear the name, the

1 first being the historic cruiser USS Olympia, the flagship of
2 Commodore George Dewey at the Battle of Manila Bay in 1898,
3 aboard which Dewey uttered the immortal words "You may fire when
4 ready, Gridley" before attacking the Spanish fleet and today is
5 the last surviving vessel of the famed Great White Fleet, now
6 serving as a museum ship docked in Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, The submarine USS Olympia has long been a point of
8 pride for Olympia and all of Thurston County, the visits of its
9 crew to the city are fondly remembered by community leaders and
10 the office of the Secretary of State has maintained a close
11 relationship with the vessel and its crew; and

12 WHEREAS, The submarine USS Olympia's lengthy record of
13 service includes an historic 1998 transit of the Suez Canal,
14 making it the first Pacific-based submarine to travel the length
15 of the canal in more than 35 years; and

16 WHEREAS, The Navy's presence in the state of Washington
17 includes Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Station Whidbey Island, Naval
18 Station Everett, Naval Magazine Indian Island, and more than 100
19 supported Navy commands and units; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Navy in the state of Washington
21 employs more than 20,000 active duty personnel, 5,000
22 reservists, 15,000 contractors and 17,000 Navy civilian
23 personnel, and there are more than 42,000 members of Navy
24 families in the state and more than 55,000 retirees; and

25 WHEREAS, The Navy is one of the state's largest employers,
26 infusing more than 5 billion dollars each year into the state's
27 economy; and

28 WHEREAS, The USS Olympia is a vital component of a national
29 defense structure that has helped prevent world conflict since
30 WWII, and exemplifies the principle that a strong military
31 offers the best guarantee of peace;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
33 Senate recognize the important contributions of the submarine
34 USS Olympia on its crew's visit to its namesake city; and that
35 the Senate's high regard for the USS Olympia and its crew be
36 extended to all who serve in the nation's armed forces; and that
37 the crew of the USS Olympia be welcomed to Washington's capital
38 with the respect and appreciation they deserve; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
2 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
3 Commanding Officer of the USS Olympia, the Secretary of the
4 United States Navy, and the President of the United States.

5 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
6 do hereby certify that this is a true and
7 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8607,
8 adopted by the Senate
9 February 9, 2017

10 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
11 Secretary of the Senate