

Testimony of:

Arthur C. Martin on behalf of the F-14 Tomcat Association

Before the:

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans

Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:

SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897) "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Conference Room 309, 9:00 am

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897). This resolution urges the Citizen's Advisory Committee of the US Postal Service to make a favorable recommendation on procuring a commemorative stamp for the F-14 Tomcat fighter aircraft. Your committee reviewed a similar resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 180 in your last session and HCR was eventually approved on the floor. One of our members, Daniel de Gracia II, authored HCR 180 and subsequently SCR 47/SR 22.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the F-14 Tomcat Association, a veteran organization of aircrew, maintainers, civil servants, contractors and enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation of the history of the F-14 Navy fighter aircraft, we urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 47 SD1.

The F-14 Tomcat has served our great nation admirably since its first flight on December 21, 1970 through its retirement from the Fleet in September 2006. During the Cold War, the Tomcat went unchallenged by the Soviets due to its know capability to detect and simultaneously track 24 targets, and fire up to six AIM-54 Phoenix missiles at once, all at ranges greater than 100 miles. This served as a major deterrent to any Soviet bombers, with their anti-ship missiles, from ever approaching our Fleet.

During the 1980's, the F-14 made headlines when in two separate incidents, four Libyan fighter jets with hostile intent were shot down over international waters in the Gulf of Sidra. It was also during this time period that the Tomcat was immortalized in two movies. First in "The Final Countdown", a piece of fiction that explored what might have happened if Tomcats were available to fight off the Japanese fighters at Pearl Harbor in 1941. This movie was filmed in the great State of Hawaii. The second movie we're sure you are all aware of was "Top

Gun”, loosely based on the Navy’s Fighter Weapons School in Miramar, California. As a result of these movies, many young Americans were inspired to become Navy fighter pilots and the F-14 became the most widely recognizable and most popular aircraft throughout the world.

As part of the Navy’s “Forward Power Projection”, Tomcats flew combat and reconnaissance missions while being subjected to Syrian Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM), Anti-Aircraft-Artillery (AAA), and MiG fighter aircraft in support of the multi-national peacekeeping forces in Lebanon.

It was F-14s that intercepted the Egypt Air Boeing 737 carrying the PLO hijackers of the cruise liner Achille Lauro and those responsible for the murder of American sailor Leon Klinghoffer. The Tomcats forced the 737 to land in Italy where the terrorists were brought to justice.

In the 1990s the F-14 played a major role in achieving early air superiority over the skies of Iraq in the first Gulf War and continued its presence after the war to enforce the “No Fly” zone. It was also in this decade that F-14s, as part of NATO forces, flew combat missions over Bosnia and later, Kosovo.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the F-14 joined the “War on Terror”, first in Afghanistan flying numerous long range strikes with precision-guided munitions against terrorist bases, weapons and vehicles, Alkida training bases, and Taliban military units. In many cases these targets were outside the range of other U.S. attack aircraft.

Over the last 3 years until their retirement, F-14s have been a constant presence over the skies of Iraq dropping precision-guided weapons and flying Close Air Support (CAS) missions in support of our troops on the ground. The F-14 returned from its final combat deployment in March of 2006. One of the Tomcats that participated in this final deployment and saw action over Iraq, is now destined for permanent display at the Pacific Aviation Museum in Pearl Harbor.

During its time in service to our country, the F-14 has been in the forefront in every conflict faced by this nation. The aircrews that flew them, especially those that gave their lives for us, and the maintainers who kept them flying, are true American heroes. In this day and age, our country could use more heroes and what better way to show our support for the troops than with a commemorative stamp.

Mahalo for your consideration in this matter. Aloha and God bless.

Respectfully,  
Arthur C. Martin  
Secretary

On behalf of the Board and membership of the F-14 Tomcat Association

Captain Michael Rabans (USN, Ret.), President and COB

Captain Mark Swaney (USN, Ret.), Vice President

Captain James Underwood (USNR), Treasurer

Commander James Hinline (USN), West Coast Representative

Dave Parsons, East Coast Representative

Lt. John Turner (USN), Maintainer Representative

AFCM Larry Winfield (USN), Maintainer Representative

Natalie Bell - Fleet Liaison

Testimony of:  
John Theodore Cholis

Before the:  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:  
SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897) "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES  
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"RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO  
COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14  
TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

As a former F-14 Tomcat NAVY Plane Captain, Troubleshooter & Airframes Maintainer  
I certainly hope, with all my heart, the efforts to Commemorate the long service of the  
Tomcat in the form of USPS Postage Stamps comes to fruition. After Naval Service I  
went on to Grumman Aerospace Corp. & built Tomcats at Calverton NY Final Assembly  
& Flight Test. From there, on to Field Engineering, supporting the Tomcat, it's  
Squadrons, Aircrews & Maintainers all over the world ashore & afloat. So, as you can  
see, the Tomcat, and it's Legacy are quite close to my heart.  
As it is to all that were touched by it's awesome power & grace for 35 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
John "JT" Cholis

**har1-Shawn**

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**From:** Joe [flagman1@optonline.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 1:09 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** F-14 Tomcat Stamp

Testimony of:  
Joe Albanese, former Grumman worker

Before the:  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:  
SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897) "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897), "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

As a former Grumman F-14 Plane Captain, I was able to see first hand the pride that went into building such a mighty defender of our freedom. We civilians, as well as the Military Personnel that maintained and flew the F-14 Tomcat will always remember this aircraft to be one of the best defenders of the United States that was ever built. A commemorative stamp seems to be a fitting way to honor the men and women of that great aircraft. I ask you to please pass this measure on to the Floor for adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Tomcat ..... Always, Baby

3/18/2008

Testimony of:  
Jonathan S. Bryan  
Concerned Citizen

Before the:  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:  
SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897) "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES  
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U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

Thursday, March 20, 2008  
Conference Room 309, 9:00 am

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897),  
"RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO  
COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14  
TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

The Grumman F-14 Tomcat is one of the most important aircraft in recent U.S. history. When it first debuted, it represented a huge leap in technology in fighter development. It was originally conceived to protect the fleets of the United States Navy, and ultimately the citizens of this country. Once it entered service with the fleet, it started a track record that many would be jealous of. The first squadrons to deploy provided top cover during the American withdrawal from Saigon in 1974. With the arrival of the 1980's, the F-14 helped uphold Freedom of Navigation and engaged and destroyed Libyan fighters with no losses. In between the Libyan shoot downs, the Tomcat helped to capture the terrorists responsible for the high jacking of the Achille Lauro and the murder of a U.S. citizen. During this time, the F-14 became a movie star for a second time (the first was in 'The Final Countdown') with the debut of the motion picture 'Top Gun'. This film gave a brief glimpse at dedication and sacrifice that is required by today's armed forces.

Continuing into the 1990's, the F-14 saw action in Operation Desert Storm, escorting bomber packages and scoring yet another kill. After the war, the F-14 was modified to carry Laser Guided Bombs, adding to its value. This new capability was soon put to the test in Operations Deliberate and Allied Force when F-14s provided Forward Air Control for Allied troops.

As the new millennium began, the Tomcat and its crews were faced with an ever nearing retirement date. After the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the F-14 and it's

dedicated supporters answered our nation's call once again. Tomcats were among the handful of aircraft that could make the transit to Afghanistan without heavy reliance on other assets. F-14s primarily struck strategic ground targets and provided Close Air Support for Allied troops on the ground. Operation Iraqi Freedom would be the Tomcat's last action. During their deployment, Tomcat squadrons again struck ground targets and provided extensive (and much appreciated) Close Air Support for our forces on the ground.

While the last F-14s were retired in September 2006, the 'Can-Do' spirit of the community still lives on, and this is the main reason why the F-14 needs to be commemorated. A plane is just a collection of parts, unless it has support. Support for the F-14 Tomcat has come from many sources, from the fine folks of Grumman Aerospace Corporation who designed, flew, tested and supported the Tomcat; all of the flight crews, maintainers, dedicated professionals who took the plane into harm's way to protect our freedom and that of our allies; and those who sacrificed for that freedom, the families and loved ones, and ultimately those who gave their lives in the ultimate calling.

So once again, I ask that you honor those who have supported, and sacrificed, by commemorating the Grumman F-14 Tomcat.

'Anytime, Baby!'

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jonathan S. Bryan  
Concerned Citizen

estimony of:

Tony Zoroya, F-14 Tomcat enthusiast and member of the F-14 Tomcat Association

Before the:

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans

Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:

SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897) "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Conference Room 309, 9:00 am

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897), "RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

As a proud American and long time F-14 enthusiast, no one could better appreciate the need for a commemorative stamp for the men and women of that great and mighty aircraft. I ask you to please pass this measure on to the Floor for adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**Tony Zoroya**

*"The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership"*  
- Colin Powell



TESTIMONY OF  
David L Parsons  
Concerned Citizen

BEFORE THE  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Sharon E. Har

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MEASURE  
SCR47 SD1 (SSCR2897)

"RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE  
HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

Thursday, March 20, 2008  
Conference Room 309, 9:00 am

*Single copy transmitted electronically to [PSMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:PSMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)*

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, Honorable Members et al:

I wholeheartedly support this resolution in its current amended SD1 form and urge the members of the Committee to pass this measure to request the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to authorize the production of a first-class F-14 Tomcat stamp for its honorable service in defending freedom. Although many aircraft have been produced to defend this great country, the F-14 Tomcat is unique in its longevity of service that spanned thirty-five years of frontline service that begin in the height of the Cold War and extended into the Global War on Terror. No other carrier based fighter has come close to its length of service or in capturing the imagination of not only the country, but international aviation enthusiasts as well through its starring role in two prominent Hollywood Films, the first of which was set in the Hawaiian Islands (Final Countdown). Other testimony has been heard that extolls the praise of this fine fighter. I made my decision to fly fighters at the age of 5 standing with my father at Hickam AFB watching fighter operations. Thirteen years later, I graduated from Kailua High School and left for the mainland and a career in the Navy in which I amassed over 2000 hours in the Tomcat from flying escort for Soviet Bear surveillance aircraft above the Arctic Circle to leading strikes over Iraq during Desert Storm. I appreciate being given the opportunity to advocate consideration of this measure before the legislature. Mahalo, Kawika

Dave Parsons

"Hey Joe"

Innovation Cell Lead/Warfighter Liaison  
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**Bel Santa Elena-de Gracia**  
Concerned Citizen

Senate Concurrent Resolution 47 SD1 (SSCR 2897)  
"RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO  
COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT  
IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
March 20 2008 Conference Room 309, 9:00 AM

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**Representative Evans, Representative Har, Committee Members, aloha kakou.**

It is my pleasure to testify in strong support of SCR47 SD1. This measure is an important step towards preserving patriotic American icons, and I believe the Legislature should support it. As the wife of a retired United States Air Force Colonel, I too recognize that the F-14 had an important part of America's history in the 1980s and its posterity should be preserved for the sake of future generations with an F-14 Tomcat stamp.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of:

Timothy J. Lent, former F-14 Plane Captain, Grumman Aerospace Corp, Calverton ,New York.

Before the:

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans

Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:

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As a former Grumman F-14 Tomcat Plane Captain, I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to an aircraft that is a symbol of the strength and resolve of the United States of America. The F-14, with its unmatched and massive firepower capabilities, was born to protect and defend our freedoms throughout the world. It is befitting to honor the F-14 and the men and women who designed, built, maintained and flew this magnificent machine with this special commemorative stamp. I ask you to please pass this measure on to the Floor for adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of:  
John A. Vosilla  
Manager, Communications  
Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems Eastern Region

Before the:  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:  
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As an employee of Grumman, now Northrop Grumman, and on behalf of all those dedicated, almost driven people who worked for this fine company over more than seven decades, I urge Congress to authorize an F-14 stamp.

The Tomcats built for our young sailors by the "Grummanites" and their subcontractors were more than airplanes. They were the embodiment of deeply held beliefs. I know, because I talked to those engineers and builders, occasionally chronicled their work, saw those sleek Tomcats up close and heard the incredible roar.

You see, the people who designed and built the Tomcat went to work each day convinced that their skills were essential to protecting free people, first from the Communist world, then from terrorists. More than that, to them, each young man and woman who climbed into a Tomcat cockpit was like their own child, and so, to bring them safely home, that fighter had to be faster, tougher, more maneuverable, more adaptable, more feared than anything else in the sky.

Was it ever! After Desert Storm, the kills of less capable aircraft were touted. Interestingly, Tomcats didn't register one kill. Why? As the story is told, whenever the F-14s turned on their radar, the Iraqi fighters apparently fled. According to the Defense Department's Desert Storm after-action report, F-14-supported strikes were rarely engaged by enemy aircraft and achieved a 100% success rate

resulting in zero air-to-air loss of strike/SEAD aircraft. Coalition forces specifically requested F-14s on numerous occasions for escort.

Yes, the Tomcat was a technological marvel with its variable-sweep wings and the incredibly potent reach of its Phoenix missiles. It was built to evolve. With the LANTIRN pods that were added to them in the 1990s, Tomcats flying missions over Bosnia “lased” the weapons of other aircraft, guiding those weapons after they had fired their own.

Even during its last deployment, new capabilities were added to the F-14. That was when Navy engineers developed, in just weeks, a way to send the picture from the F-14D's video camera down to grunts on the ground in Iraq, giving them a bird's eye view of the streets beyond them and over walls that, before the Tomcat, hid ruthless killers from their sight.

A stamp in honor of the Tomcat would honor the genius of those who designed this shield of freedom that was still the best in the sky until the day it was retired. A stamp would honor the dedicated people who built them. It would honor the skilled men and women who maintained them and the brave ones who launched from carriers in them. Tomcats weren't just the finest fighters ever built, they were the American way at Mach 2.

Most sincerely yours,

John A. Vosilla  
Manager, Communications--Eastern Region  
Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
M/S Z65-25  
600 Grumman Road West  
Bethpage, NY 11714-3582  
516-575-5119  
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Testimony of  
Ron Heilmann  
former A.G.E./ Groundpower  
Concerned Citizen

Before the  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E Har

In Consideration of the Measure:

**SCR 47 SDI ( SSCR 2897 )  
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO COMMEMORATE THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY'S F-  
14 TOMCAT  
" IN DEFENDING FREEDOM "**

Thursday , March 20, 2008  
Conference Room 309, 9:00 A M.

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har,  
Members of Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
And strongly request that a stamp is long overdue to Commemorate the **U. S. NAVY'S F-14 TOMCAT Fighter series Aircraft in defending freedom**. I ask you to please **pass this measure** on the floor for adoption. Please feel free to contact me by e/mail should you have any questions, and again thank you for this opportunity to testify

Respectfully  
Ron Heilmann      *THE LEGACY CONTINUES.....*

Testimony of:  
John T, Ritter, Retired US Navy

Before the:  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Cindy Evans  
Vice Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har

In consideration of the measure:  
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TOMCAT IN DEFENDING FREEDOM."

Having retired a few years ago my wish is that there could be now better lasting memory  
to those who have given there all while being connected to this aircraft either flying or in  
a support role. I appreciate the need for a commemorative stamp for the men and women  
of that great and mighty aircraft. I ask you to please pass this measure on to the Floor for  
adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

John T. Ritter, USN Ret.