
SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE NAMING OF A UNITED STATES NAVY
SURFACE COMBATANT SHIP AFTER FIREMAN SECOND CLASS AND
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT TELESFORO TRINIDAD.

1 WHEREAS, United States Navy ships have traditionally been
2 named by the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the
3 President of the United States and in accordance with rules
4 prescribed by Congress; and
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6 WHEREAS, multiple members of Congress, including
7 Representative Ed Case of Hawaii and Representative Sara Jacobs
8 of California, signed a letter authored by Jacobs and dated
9 May 26, 2021, to the Acting Secretary of the Navy in strong
10 support of naming a Navy surface combatant ship after United
11 States Navy Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad, who
12 received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1915; and
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14 WHEREAS, the May 26, 2021, letter cited numerous reasons
15 for the request, including the following:
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17 (1) The Medal of Honor highlights the importance of
18 service and sacrifice for shipmates and country both
19 in times of war and in day-to-day operations;
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21 (2) Trinidad was awarded the Medal of Honor in accordance
22 with General Order Number 142, which was signed by
23 Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on April 1,
24 1915;
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26 (3) Trinidad earned the Medal of Honor for showing
27 extraordinary heroism in the line of duty in response
28 to boiler explosions aboard the USS San Diego (ACR-6)
29 that occurred when the ship was in the Gulf of
30 California on January 21, 1915; more specifically,
31 Trinidad brought two crewmembers to safety despite
32 being physically injured by the explosions;
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1 (4) One hundred and six years later, Trinidad continues to
2 hold the distinction of being the only Asian American
3 and only Filipino American in the United States Navy
4 to have received a Medal of Honor;
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6 (5) The naming of a Navy ship in honor of Trinidad would
7 demonstrate the Navy's leadership and commitment to
8 diversity, equality, and inclusion amid current racial
9 tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian
10 Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide, and would
11 also mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the
12 establishment of diplomatic relations between the
13 United States and the Republic of the Philippines and
14 the seventieth anniversary of the Mutual Defense
15 Treaty between the two countries; and
16

17 (6) The naming of a Navy ship after Trinidad would also
18 honor the faithful and loyal service, since 1901, of
19 tens of thousands of Filipinos and Filipino Americans
20 in the United States Navy; would result in the first-
21 ever Navy ship bearing the name of an American
22 national of Filipino descent; and would evidence the
23 long-standing military and political alliance that has
24 existed between the United States and the Philippines
25 since 1898; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
29 that this body supports the naming of a United States Navy
30 surface combatant ship after Fireman Second Class and
31 Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Telesforo Trinidad; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States
35 Navy and members of the Hawaii congressional delegation.

