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Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives
Columbus

Veterans and Military Development
H.R.C. 20
Sponsor Testimony

Chairwoman Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Concurrent Resolution 20, which I have introduced jointly with my colleague Representative Santucci. This resolution recognizes the distinguished service and exceptional valor of the men and women of the United States Navy and commemorates the 250th anniversary of its founding.

On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the purchase and outfitting of two vessels, giving rise to the United States Navy. Since that moment, generations of sailors have embodied the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. For two and a half centuries, they have safeguarded the seas, protected American commerce, and defended freedom in conflicts large and small across the globe.

Ohio has a proud and enduring connection to this service. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry secured a decisive victory in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812—an achievement that ensured control of the Great Lakes and helped preserve our young nation. Many of us are reminded of this triumph each time we walk through the Rotunda of the Statehouse, where the iconic painting of Perry's victory at Lake Erie is prominently displayed.

During the Second World War, women of the WAVES program in Dayton contributed to critical classified missions that advanced the Allied war effort. And throughout history, Ohioans have served with distinction, from Revolutionary War commander Abraham Whipple to Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King of Lorain, who held supreme naval command during World War II.

Our state has also been honored by the Navy with the naming of four ships as USS Ohio, most recently a nuclear-powered submarine that remains in active service today. Other Ohio cities—Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Akron, and many more—have likewise been recognized in naval ship names. Today, Navy Reserve Centers in Akron, Cincinnati, and Columbus continue that proud tradition of service by supporting hundreds of sailors.

As a Naval officer myself, I am particularly mindful of the sacrifices made by Ohioans and their families in service to our nation at sea. With this resolution, we not only commemorate the Navy's 250th birthday but also reaffirm our gratitude for the countless men and women—past, present, and future—who choose the difficult but noble life of service in defense of our freedom.

Chairwoman Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the Committee, I respectfully ask for your support of House Concurrent Resolution 20. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.