

Senate Resolution 876

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Rhett of the 33rd, Anderson of the 43rd, Harrell of the 40th and Orrock of the 36th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay, a distinguished native of Atlanta, Georgia, and a  
3 dedicated 1980 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, first completed his flight  
4 training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola in 1981; and

5 WHEREAS, his initial sea assignments showcased his dedication and skill, including  
6 deployments aboard the *USS Fletcher* (DD 992), *USS Cook* (FF 1083), *USS David R. Ray*  
7 (DD 971), and *USS Crommelin* (FFG 43), establishing a remarkable foundation for his naval  
8 career; and

9 WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay's leadership shone brightly as he commanded the  
10 Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 43 BattleCats, deploying the navy's first  
11 Armed Helo/Hellfire missile detachments, and served as "Air Boss" on *USS Boxer* (LHD 4),  
12 deploying with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in 1999; and

13 WHEREAS, ashore assignments further highlighted Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay's versatility,  
14 including roles such as search and rescue pilot in the High Sierra Mountains at NAS Fallon,  
15 Nev.; instructor pilot in the SH-60B aircraft at HSL-41; Joint Plans officer at United States

16 Forces Command and United States Atlantic Command; and commanding officer of HSL-41,  
17 a training squadron for all west coast SH-60B pilots and aircrewmen; and

18 WHEREAS, his command of the *USS Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) from March 2003 until  
19 November 2004, marked a period of outstanding service, deploying twice with the 11th MEU  
20 in combat support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay continued to contribute significantly in various roles,  
22 including serving as the navy's director of congressional liaison, United States House of  
23 Representatives, and as the 86th commandant of Naval District Washington and deputy  
24 commander, Joint Force Headquarters, National Capital Region; and

25 WHEREAS, he further served his country as deputy chairman of the Armed Forces  
26 Inauguration Committee, Washington, D.C., from July 2008 until March 2009, and as  
27 commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 3, San Diego, from July 2009 until June 2011; and

28 WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay's career extended beyond his naval service and into  
29 his roles as a Presidential Appointee, Senior Advisor, and Director of the Office of Personnel  
30 Management in Washington, D.C.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 recognize and commend Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and  
33 dedicated service as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rear Admiral Earl  
36 L. Gay.