

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Heslar Naval Armory and its staff for their many contributions to our nation and our state.

Banks

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Heslar Naval
2 Armory and its staff for their many contributions to our nation and our
3 state.

4 *Whereas, On the eastern bank of the White River on 30th*
5 *Street in Indianapolis sits the majestic building that houses*
6 *the Heslar Naval Armory, whose mission it is to deliver*
7 *strategic depth and operational capability to the Navy,*
8 *Marine Corps, and Joint Forces;*

9 *Whereas, A part of the Works Progress Administration,*
10 *construction began on the armory in 1936; but two years*
11 *later, the building was already in use even though*
12 *construction was not complete;*

13 *Whereas, Prior to its construction, the Navy reserves had*
14 *no central location to drill;*

15 *Whereas, The armory was authorized by the Ninth Naval*
16 *District and the city of Indianapolis due largely to the efforts*
17 *of Captain O. F. Heslar;*

18 *Whereas, From the time Captain Heslar was named as the*
19 *Area Commander of the Indiana reserves in 1922, he*
20 *petitioned to have a dedicated armory built to house the*
21 *Naval Reserve forces in the area;*

22 *Whereas, Originally named the Indianapolis Naval*
23 *Armory, it was built on this inland location because its*
24 *original purpose was to train sailors as radio operators*



1 *(signalmen) and radio repairmen (electronic technicians);*

2 *Whereas, The Heslar Naval Armory also served as a school*
3 *for cooks and bakers and quartered sailors in transit to new*
4 *duty stations for a short time;*

5 *Whereas, With the outbreak of World War II, the armory's*
6 *inland location became a perfect place to discuss secret*
7 *military plans and, for high ranking officials seeking to avoid*
8 *the constant surveillance on the coasts, to plan their Atlantic*
9 *and Pacific campaigns;*

10 *Whereas, The armory has been home to the Naval and*
11 *Marine Corps Reserves since its beginning, but an active*
12 *duty staff conducts duties during normal business hours;*

13 *Whereas, On December 12, 1964, the Indianapolis Naval*
14 *Armory was renamed the Heslar Naval Armory in honor of*
15 *its first and longest-serving commanding officer;*

16 *Whereas, The current Commanding Officer, Commander*
17 *Robert B. Szemborski, is the 26th Commanding Officer of the*
18 *Heslar Naval Armory, which is home to more than 450 U.S.*
19 *Navy reserve sailors from 10 units and more than 150*
20 *reserve Marines;*

21 *Whereas, The officers and staff of the Heslar Naval Armory*
22 *have given unselfishly their time, knowledge, and efforts in*
23 *defense of their nation and their state and to facilitate the*
24 *Naval Reserve and the Indiana Naval Forces; and*

25 *Whereas, Heslar Naval Armory is home to several artifacts*
26 *of Naval history, including a bell from the USS Indiana cast*
27 *in 1942 with the commissioning of that ship, a bell from the*
28 *USS Indianapolis cast in 1932 with the commissioning of that*
29 *ship and removed to conserve weight prior to her final*
30 *cruise, a damaged flag recovered from the USS Indianapolis*
31 *presented to the city of Indianapolis on February 2, 1960, by*
32 *the Indianapolis Council of the Navy League of the United*
33 *States, a flag recovered from the USS Fechteler, hung in the*
34 *wardroom, a quartermaster's logbook from the USS Indiana*
35 *in 1943, and the original blueprints for the USS Indiana:*
36 *Therefore,*



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*Be it resolved by the Senate
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the House of Representatives concurring:*

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly acknowledges the many contributions made by the staff of the Heslar Naval Armory in times of war and peace.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the commander of the Heslar Naval Armory.

