

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Commander Gregory Reed Koepp II of the United States Navy on his outstanding naval career and upon his service as the commanding officer of the soon-to-be, newly commissioned USS Colorado.

WHEREAS, the USS Colorado (SSN-788), the most modern attack submarine of its kind, is a flexible, multi-mission vessel with a unique range of operational capabilities that include anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine warfare, strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and the delivery of Special Operations Forces; and

WHEREAS, the fifteenth in the Virginia-class series to join the naval fleet, the USS Colorado can operate close to shore as well as in deep ocean environs; through extensive modifications of modular construction, open architecture, and adaptable technical components, the Virginia-class design remains at the acme of efficiency through the rapid introduction of newly applied technologies; and

WHEREAS, the fourth naval vessel to bear its name, the USS Colorado upholds a proud legacy of military service; the commissioning ceremonies will occur on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at the United States Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, at its helm will be Commander Gregory Reed Koepp, a career naval

officer with seventeen years of extraordinary military service to his credit; and

WHEREAS, Commander Koepp, a native of Picayune, Mississippi, and a graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor of science degree in physics, received his commission as a U. S. Navy Ensign upon completion of the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program and began his active duty service; and

WHEREAS, Commander Koepp also completed a master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University and acquired additional military credentials in Joint Professional Military Education from the Air Command and Staff College, nuclear power training, and advanced submarine officer training; and

WHEREAS, he served as division officer in engineering and tactics while completing four strategic deterrent patrols onboard the USS Tennessee, as nuclear training and accessions officer at Commander Navy Recruiting Command; as navigation and operations officer onboard the USS Virginia when the ship was deployed to the European Command and African Command Areas of Responsibility where Commander Koepp was twice awarded the Battle Efficiency Ribbon; as squadron operations officer to Commander Submarine Squadron Four, as executive officer onboard the USS Buffalo; and as executive officer to the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, assigned to numerous duty stations and deployments around the world, both ashore and aboard ship, Commander Koepp has amassed a plethora of empirical knowledge, exceptional experience, and leadership skills that are above reproach; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2017, during a change of command ceremony, Commander Reed Koepp became the commanding officer of the PCU Colorado (SSN-788); and

WHEREAS, the USS Colorado, under the competent control of Commander Reed Koepp, establishes a combat-ready presence, maintains international peace and security, and provides a steadfast reminder of the far-reaching supremacy of the United States Navy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend U. S. Navy Commander Gregory Reed Koepp II on his outstanding naval career and upon his service as the commanding officer of the USS Colorado and on his faithful military service to the state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend thanks and Godspeed to Commander Gregory Reed Koepp with continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Commander Gregory Reed Koepp II Commanding Officer, USS Colorado.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE