

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2122

To designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. LOWENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Battleship Iowa Na-
5 tional Museum of the Surface Navy Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States Surface Navy represents
9 the millions of sailors and thousands of ships that

1 sail on oceans around the world to ensure the safety
2 and freedom of Americans and all people.

3 (2) The Battleship IOWA is an iconic Surface
4 Navy vessel that—

5 (A) served as home to hundreds of thou-
6 sands of sailors from all 50 States; and

7 (B) is recognized as a transformational
8 feat of engineering and innovation.

9 (3) In 2012, the Navy donated the Battleship
10 IOWA to the Pacific Battleship Center, a nonprofit
11 organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the In-
12 ternal Revenue Code of 1986, after which the Center
13 established the Battleship IOWA Museum at the
14 Port of Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California.

15 (4) The Battleship IOWA Museum is a mu-
16 seum and educational institution that—

17 (A) has welcomed millions of visitors from
18 across the United States and receives support
19 from thousands of Americans throughout the
20 United States to preserve the legacy of those
21 who served on the Battleship IOWA and all
22 Surface Navy ships;

23 (B) is home to Los Angeles Fleet Week,
24 which has the highest public engagement of any
25 Fleet Week in the United States and raises

1 awareness of the importance of the Navy to de-
2 fending the United States, maintaining safe sea
3 lanes, and providing humanitarian assistance;

4 (C) hosts numerous military activities, in-
5 cluding enlistments, re-enlistments,
6 commissionings, promotions, and community
7 service days, with participants from throughout
8 the United States;

9 (D) is a leader in museum engagement
10 with innovative exhibits, diverse programming,
11 and use of technology;

12 (E) is an on-site training platform for Fed-
13 eral, State, and local law enforcement personnel
14 to use for a variety of training exercises, includ-
15 ing urban search and rescue and maritime secu-
16 rity exercises;

17 (F) is a partner with the Navy in carrying
18 out Defense Support of Civil Authorities efforts
19 by supporting training exercises and responses
20 to crises, including the COVID–19 pandemic;

21 (G) is a science, technology, engineering,
22 and mathematics education platform for thou-
23 sands of students each year;

24 (H) is an instrumental partner in the eco-
25 nomic development efforts along the Los Ange-

1 les waterfront by attracting hundreds of thou-
2 sands of visitors annually and improving the
3 quality of life for area residents; and

4 (I) provides a safe place for—

5 (i) veteran engagement and reintegra-
6 tion into the community through programs
7 and activities that provide a sense of be-
8 longing to members of the Armed Forces
9 and veterans; and

10 (ii) proud Americans to come together
11 in common purpose to highlight the impor-
12 tance of service to community for the fu-
13 ture of the United States.

14 (5) In January 2019, the Pacific Battleship
15 Center received a license for the rights of the Na-
16 tional Museum of the Surface Navy from the Navy
17 for the purpose of building such museum aboard the
18 Battleship IOWA at the Port of Los Angeles.

19 (6) The National Museum of the Surface Navy
20 will—

21 (A) be the official museum to honor mil-
22 lions of Americans who have proudly served and
23 continue to serve in the Surface Navy since the
24 founding of the Navy on October 13, 1775;

1 (B) be a community-based and future-ori-
2 ented museum that will raise awareness and
3 educate the public on the important role of the
4 Surface Navy in ensuring international rela-
5 tions, maintaining safe sea transit for free
6 trade, preventing piracy, providing humani-
7 tarian assistance, and enhancing the role of the
8 United States throughout the world;

9 (C) build on successes of the Battleship
10 IOWA Museum by introducing new exhibits and
11 programs with a focus on education, veterans,
12 and community;

13 (D) borrow and exhibit artifacts from the
14 Navy and other museums and individuals
15 throughout the United States; and

16 (E) work with individuals from the Surface
17 Navy community and the public to ensure that
18 the story of the Surface Navy community is ac-
19 curately interpreted and represented.

20 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE SURFACE NAVY.**

21 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Battleship IOWA Museum,
22 located in Los Angeles, California, and managed by the
23 Pacific Battleship Center, shall be designated as the “Na-
24 tional Museum of the Surface Navy”.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the National Mu-
2 seum of the Surface Navy shall be to—

3 (1) provide and support—

4 (A) a museum dedicated to the United
5 States Surface Navy community; and

6 (B) a platform for education, community,
7 and veterans programs;

8 (2) preserve, maintain, and interpret artifacts,
9 documents, images, stories, and history collected by
10 the museum; and

11 (3) ensure that the American people understand
12 the importance of the Surface Navy in the continued
13 freedom, safety, and security of the United States.

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