

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4631, by Representatives Young and Simmons

1 WHEREAS, On June 30, 1975, the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier was
2 officially commissioned, named after World War II Fleet Admiral
3 Chester W. Nimitz, and continues to stand the test of time as the
4 oldest active aircraft carrier in the fleet; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 8, 2020, after several months of training, the
6 USS Nimitz set sail as the first aircraft carrier to ever be deployed
7 during the COVID-19 pandemic, bravely paving the way for all safety
8 standards to follow; and

9 WHEREAS, The crew of over 5,000 sailors and marines aboard the
10 USS Nimitz risked their lives contributing to the security and well-
11 being of American interests in the Middle East, Africa, and the
12 Western Pacific; and

13 WHEREAS, The average aircraft carrier is deployed for six months
14 out at sea, the USS Nimitz endured 340 days, or over 11 grueling
15 months, threading perilous waters; and

16 WHEREAS, The average deployment consists of one monthly port
17 visit for the leisure activity of the crew in allied nations, the
18 COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of most port visits; and

19 WHEREAS, Nimitz sailors had no access to nature amidst the cold
20 steel of the ship and the whirring sounds of the engine and aircraft
21 being launched; and

1 WHEREAS, Nimitz sailors had no contact with loved ones back at
2 home, besides postcards and rare instances of limited internet usage;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The USS Nimitz strengthened international partnerships
5 by coordinating with Indian, Australian, and Japanese naval forces
6 for the Malabar 2020 joint military exercises; and

7 WHEREAS, On March 7, 2021, the USS Nimitz finally returned home
8 to Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton having carried out operation Inherent
9 Resolve, operation Freedom's Sentinel, and operation Octave Quartz,
10 and having successfully traveled over 99,000 nautical miles, launched
11 10,185 sorties, and logged 23,410 flight hours;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
13 recognize the sacrifice, resilience, and dedication of the USS Nimitz
14 crew during an exceptionally trying 2020 deployment. We welcome these
15 brave military men and women back home to Washington state with
16 gratitude for their outstanding service and commitment.

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