

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 59

By: Reynolds, Aldridge,
Branan, Brogdon, Cain,
Capps, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, Crutchfield, Dunlap,
Easley (Mary), Fair,
Fisher, Ford, Gumm,
Harrison, Helton, Hobson,
Horner, Johnson, Kerr,
Laster, Laughlin, Lawler,
Leftwich (Debbe),
Lerblance, Littlefield,
Maddox, Milacek, Monson,
Morgan, Myers, Nichols,
Price, Pruitt, Rabon,
Riley, Robinson, Rozell,
Shurden, Smith, Snyder,
Taylor, Wilcoxson,
Wilkerson, Williams and
Williamson of the Senate

and

Reynolds of the House

A Concurrent Resolution honoring the survivors of the
USS Oklahoma; urging the federal government to build
a suitable monument; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the USS Oklahoma (BB-37) was commissioned and joined
the fleet in 1918. Although it escorted Allied shipping to Europe,
the ship, because of its delayed entry into World War I, never fired
a shot during that conflict. During the 1920s the Oklahoma was
modernized, one of the first ships in the Navy to have bunks
installed. The modernization was completed in 1929; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, "a day that shall live in infamy",
the Pacific fleet, anchored at Pearl Harbor, was subject to a sneak
attack. At anchor on Battleship Row, the USS Oklahoma was
immediately hit by three torpedoes. As many as a dozen torpedoes
may have hit the Oklahoma during the first ten minutes of the
attack. The order was finally given to abandon ship but it was too
late. More than 400 sailors and Marines were trapped inside as the
ship turned completely over. Those who escaped the ship had to swim

through a sea covered with flaming oil during "The Day The Seas Burned". Information can be obtained from the book "Trapped at Pearl Harbor: Escape from Battleship Oklahoma" by Stephen Bower Young. Although other ships were salvaged, the Oklahoma and the Arizona would never serve again; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30 men who survived the sinking of the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor are holding a reunion in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this week. One of the purposes of the reunion is to plan how to persuade the U.S. Department of the Navy and the National Park Service to allow the creation of a suitable monument to those who were lost during the attack.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors the survivors of the USS Oklahoma, praises their courage, and endorses their effort to create a suitable monument to the victims of this sneak attack.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature memorializes the federal government to aid and support the creation of a suitable monument to honor those lost on the USS Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Paul Goodyear, President of USS Oklahoma Survivors; the Secretary of the Navy; the National Park Service; and members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 14th day of April, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2004.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives