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**BILL NO.** \_\_\_\_\_**Date of Intro.** \_\_\_\_\_**Ref.** \_\_\_\_\_

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SPONSOR

AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION honoring the history and service of the U.S.S. New Jersey.

Honors history and service of U.S.S. New Jersey.

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Same as \_\_\_\_\_ 24/25    Same as \_\_\_\_\_ 26/27

Suggested allocation:

**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** honoring the history and service of the U.S.S. New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, In the history of the United States Navy, several battleships have been bestowed the honor of the name U.S.S. New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, The first naval ship to be named for the great State of New Jersey was a Virginia-class battleship built and commissioned by the Navy 100 years ago, in 1906; and

**WHEREAS**, The original U.S.S. New Jersey was given the privilege of joining President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet as it sailed around the world between 1907 and 1909 in order to promote diplomacy and project American strength at sea; and

**WHEREAS**, This ship served as a training ground for servicemembers joining the Navy during World War I and made four trans-Atlantic voyages to bring heroic veterans home from Europe after the war ended, before being decommissioned in 1920; and

**WHEREAS**, The second naval ship to be named the U.S.S. New Jersey, now known as the Battleship New Jersey, was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and launched on December 7, 1942, just one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

**WHEREAS**, The Battleship New Jersey would go on to become the most decorated battleship in American history, receiving nine battle stars for service in World War II, four battle stars for service in the Korean War, three battle stars for service in the Vietnam War, one campaign star for service in an Armed Forces Expedition in Lebanon, and two campaign stars for service in the Persian Gulf, before being decommissioned in 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2001, the Battleship New Jersey was opened to the public as a museum and memorial based in Camden, New Jersey, ensuring that it continues to inform and inspire the service of future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey recognized the legacy of the Battleship New Jersey by naming it the State Ship in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, In September 2024, the Navy again saw fit to have New Jersey amongst its ranks when it commissioned a Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine to be named the U.S.S. New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, The latest iteration of the U.S.S. New Jersey bares an outline of the State, and is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Virtute Ignis pro Libertas," meaning "Firepower for Freedom"; and

**WHEREAS**, These symbols, taken together, carry forth the message that New Jerseyans have always, and will always, stand ready to defend freedom wherever and whenever called upon; and

**WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the General Assembly to recognize this profound and continuing legacy, and to honor all the servicemembers who have ever served the cause of freedom aboard the U.S.S. New Jersey; now, therefore,

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**BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The General Assembly honors the history and service of the U.S.S. New Jersey and expresses its sincerest gratitude to the men and women who have honorably served aboard any of the three ships named after this State.
2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Secretary of the United States Navy and to the Chief Executive Officer of the Battleship New Jersey.

#### STATEMENT

This Assembly resolution honors the history and service of the U.S.S. New Jersey and expresses its sincerest gratitude to the men and women who have honorably served aboard any of the three ships named after this State.

In the history of the United States Navy, several battleships have been bestowed the honor of the name U.S.S. New Jersey. The first naval ship to be named for the great State of New Jersey was a Virginia-class battleship built and commissioned by the Navy 100 years ago, in 1906. The original U.S.S. New Jersey was given the privilege of joining President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet as it sailed around the world between 1907 and 1909 in order to promote diplomacy and project American strength at sea. This ship then served as a training ground for servicemembers joining the Navy during World War I and made four trans-Atlantic voyages to bring heroic veterans home from Europe after the war ended, before being decommissioned in 1920.

The second naval ship to be named the U.S.S. New Jersey, now known as the Battleship New Jersey, was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and launched on December 7, 1942, just one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Battleship New Jersey is now the most decorated battleship in American history. It has received nine battle stars for service in World War II, four battle stars for service in the Korean War, three battle stars for service in the Vietnam War, one campaign star for service in an Armed Forces Expedition in Lebanon, and two campaign stars for service in the Persian Gulf, before being decommissioned in 1991.

In 2001, the Battleship New Jersey was opened to the public as a museum and memorial based in Camden, New Jersey, ensuring that the battleship continues to inform and inspire the service of future generations. The State of New Jersey recognized the legacy of the Battleship New Jersey by naming it the State Ship in 2017.

In September 2024, the Navy again saw fit to have New Jersey amongst its ranks when it commissioned a Virginia-class nuclear-

powered fast attack submarine to be named the U.S.S. New Jersey. The latest iteration of the U.S.S. New Jersey bares an outline of the State, and is inscribed with the Latin phrase “Virtute Ignis pro Libertas,” meaning “Firepower for Freedom.” These symbols, taken together, carry forth the message that New Jerseyans have always, and will always, stand ready to defend freedom wherever and whenever called upon.

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Honors history and service of U.S.S. New Jersey.

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