

BY ALD. WITKOWSKI

Resolution recognizing the USS Mt. McKinley and her crew on the occasion of its annual reunion.

WHEREAS,

USS MT. McKINLEY

gathered in Milwaukee on September 16th-20th, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Airport, 6401 S. 13th St., for their annual reunion, a grand event that calls all the surviving crew members together; and

WHEREAS, *The reunion honors the crew of the USS Mt. McKinley, and many gathered in Milwaukee from all over the United States to remember friends and to celebrate their service to this great nation; and*

WHEREAS, *The USS Mt. McKinley first saw action in World War II in the invasion of Peleliu Island in the Pacific in 1944 and then participated in the invasion of the Philippine Islands, and the ship later journeyed to the Kerama Islands, near Okinawa, and oversaw the landing of the 77th Infantry Division in the days leading up to the invasion of Okinawa, and immediately after the war, the ship helped land occupation forces in Japan; and*

WHEREAS, *The USS Mt. McKinley – also known as the Proudest Command Ship of the Gator Navy – received four Battle Stars for World War II, eight Battle Stars for Korea – with Gen. Douglas MacArthur aboard, four Campaign Stars for the Vietnam War, and a Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation; and*

WHEREAS, *The USS Mt. McKinley served as the command ship for the Operation Crossroads Atomic Tests in the western Pacific Ocean – with U.S. Navy Secretary Forrestal aboard, and also served as the amphibious command ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis, with 26 Captains and three Admirals aboard; and*

WHEREAS, *The USS Mt. McKinley's crew were hard-working, dedicated and determined brave men and women who fought for the ideals their country stands for, they are protectors of freedom and role models for every American and have rightfully earned the praise, respect and admiration of all Americans, and the City of Milwaukee especially thanks these heroes for their distinguished service; and*

WHEREAS, *The USS Mt. McKinley's crew has come together for the purpose of sharing memories with old friends and remembering the eternal bond formed through service to their country; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes the crew of the USS Mt. McKinley, welcomes its reunion members to Milwaukee, and extends its best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the crew of the USS Mt. McKinley on the occasion of its reunion.*

Introduced by Council member Terry L. Witkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on September 22, 2015.