

ONE TEAM – ONE FIGHT – ONE NAME



PLEASE COSPONSOR H.R. 24

REDESIGNATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 24

To redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy
and Marine Corps.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Armed Services

A BILL

To redesignate the Department of the Navy as the
Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

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. REDESIGNATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE**
4 **NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**
5 **AND MARINE CORPS.**

6 (a) REDESIGNATION OF MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—
7 The military department designated as the Department of
8 the Navy is redesignated as the Department of the Navy
9 and Marine Corps.

1 (b) REDESIGNATION OF SECRETARY AND OTHER
2 STATUTORY OFFICES.—

3 (1) SECRETARY.—The position of the Secretary
4 of the Navy is redesignated as the Secretary of the
5 Navy and Marine Corps.

6 (2) OTHER STATUTORY OFFICES.—The posi-
7 tions of the Under Secretary of the Navy, the four
8 Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, and the General
9 Counsel of the Department of the Navy are redesign-
10 nated as the Under Secretary of the Navy and Ma-
11 rine Corps, the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy
12 and Marine Corps, and the General Counsel of the
13 Department of the Navy and Marine Corps, respec-
14 tively.

15 **SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10, UNITED**
16 **STATES CODE.**

17 (a) DEFINITION OF “MILITARY DEPARTMENT”.—
18 Paragraph (8) of section 101(a) of title 10, United States
19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

20 “(8) The term ‘military department’ means the
21 Department of the Army, the Department of the
22 Navy and Marine Corps, and the Department of the
23 Air Force.”.

24 (b) ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT.—The text of
25 section 5011 of such title is amended to read as follows:

1 “The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps is sepa-
 2 rately organized under the Secretary of the Navy and Ma-
 3 rine Corps.”.

4 (c) POSITION OF SECRETARY.—Section 5013(a)(1) of
 5 such title is amended by striking “There is a Secretary
 6 of the Navy” and inserting “There is a Secretary of the
 7 Navy and Marine Corps”.

8 (d) CHAPTER HEADINGS.—

9 (1) The heading of chapter 503 of such title is
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 **“CHAPTER 503—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
 12 **NAVY AND MARINE CORPS”.**

13 (2) The heading of chapter 507 of such title is
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 **“CHAPTER 507—COMPOSITION OF THE DE-**
 16 **PARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE**
 17 **CORPS”.**

18 (e) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) Title 10, United States Code, is amended by
 20 striking “Department of the Navy” and “Secretary
 21 of the Navy” each place they appear other than as
 22 specified in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) (includ-
 23 ing in section headings, subsection captions, tables
 24 of chapters, and tables of sections) and inserting
 25 “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps” and

1 “Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps”, respec-
2 tively, in each case with the matter inserted to be in
3 the same typeface and typestyle as the matter strick-
4 en.

5 (2)(A) Sections 5013(f), 5014(b)(2), 5016(a),
6 5017(2), 5032(a), and 5042(a) of such title are
7 amended by striking “Assistant Secretaries of the
8 Navy” and inserting “Assistant Secretaries of the
9 Navy and Marine Corps”.

10 (B) The heading of section 5016 of such title,
11 and the item relating to such section in the table of
12 sections at the beginning of chapter 503 of such
13 title, are each amended by inserting “and Marine
14 Corps” after “of the Navy”, with the matter in-
15 serted in each case to be in the same typeface and
16 typestyle as the matter amended.

17 **SEC. 3. OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW AND OTHER REF-**
18 **ERENCES.**

19 (a) TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 37,
20 United States Code, is amended by striking “Department
21 of the Navy” and “Secretary of the Navy” each place they
22 appear and inserting “Department of the Navy and Ma-
23 rine Corps” and “Secretary of the Navy and Marine
24 Corps”, respectively.

1 (b) OTHER REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law
2 other than in title 10 or title 37, United States Code, or
3 in any regulation, document, record, or other paper of the
4 United States, to the Department of the Navy shall be
5 considered to be a reference to the Department of the
6 Navy and Marine Corps. Any such reference to an office
7 specified in section 2(b) shall be considered to be a ref-
8 erence to that officer as redesignated by that section.

9 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
11 take effect on the first day of the first month beginning
12 more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

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111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 504

To redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy
and Marine Corps.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Mr. ROBERTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To redesignate the Department of the Navy as the
Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

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. REDESIGNATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE**
4 **NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**
5 **AND MARINE CORPS.**

6 (a) REDESIGNATION OF MILITARY DEPARTMENT.—
7 The military department designated as the Department of
8 the Navy is redesignated as the Department of the Navy
9 and Marine Corps.

1 (b) REDESIGNATION OF SECRETARY AND OTHER
2 STATUTORY OFFICES.—

3 (1) SECRETARY.—The position of the Secretary
4 of the Navy is redesignated as the Secretary of the
5 Navy and Marine Corps.

6 (2) OTHER STATUTORY OFFICES.—The posi-
7 tions of the Under Secretary of the Navy, the four
8 Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, and the General
9 Counsel of the Department of the Navy are redesign-
10 nated as the Under Secretary of the Navy and Ma-
11 rine Corps, the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy
12 and Marine Corps, and the General Counsel of the
13 Department of the Navy and Marine Corps, respec-
14 tively.

15 **SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10, UNITED**
16 **STATES CODE.**

17 (a) DEFINITION OF “MILITARY DEPARTMENT”.—
18 Paragraph (8) of section 101(a) of title 10, United States
19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

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21 Department of the Army, the Department of the
22 Navy and Marine Corps, and the Department of the
23 Air Force.”.

24 (b) ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT.—The text of
25 section 5011 of such title is amended to read as follows:

1 “The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps is sepa-
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 3 rine Corps.”.

4 (c) POSITION OF SECRETARY.—Section 5013(a)(1) of
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 6 of the Navy” and inserting “There is a Secretary of the
 7 Navy and Marine Corps”.

8 (d) CHAPTER HEADINGS.—

9 (1) The heading of chapter 503 of such title is
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 **“CHAPTER 503—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
 12 **NAVY AND MARINE CORPS”.**

13 (2) The heading of chapter 507 of such title is
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 **“CHAPTER 507—COMPOSITION OF THE DE-**
 16 **PARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE**
 17 **CORPS”.**

18 (e) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) Title 10, United States Code, is amended by
 20 striking “Department of the Navy” and “Secretary
 21 of the Navy” each place they appear other than as
 22 specified in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) (includ-
 23 ing in section headings, subsection captions, tables
 24 of chapters, and tables of sections) and inserting
 25 “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps” and

1 “Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps”, respec-
2 tively, in each case with the matter inserted to be in
3 the same typeface and typestyle as the matter strick-
4 en.

5 (2)(A) Sections 5013(f), 5014(b)(2), 5016(a),
6 5017(2), 5032(a), and 5042(a) of such title are
7 amended by striking “Assistant Secretaries of the
8 Navy” and inserting “Assistant Secretaries of the
9 Navy and Marine Corps”.

10 (B) The heading of section 5016 of such title,
11 and the item relating to such section in the table of
12 sections at the beginning of chapter 503 of such
13 title, are each amended by inserting “and Marine
14 Corps” after “of the Navy”, with the matter in-
15 serted in each case to be in the same typeface and
16 typestyle as the matter amended.

17 **SEC. 3. OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW AND OTHER REF-**
18 **ERENCES.**

19 (a) TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 37,
20 United States Code, is amended by striking “Department
21 of the Navy” and “Secretary of the Navy” each place they
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24 Corps”, respectively.

1 (b) OTHER REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law
2 other than in title 10 or title 37, United States Code, or
3 in any regulation, document, record, or other paper of the
4 United States, to the Department of the Navy shall be
5 considered to be a reference to the Department of the
6 Navy and Marine Corps. Any such reference to an office
7 specified in section 2(b) shall be considered to be a ref-
8 erence to that officer as redesignated by that section.

9 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
11 take effect on the first day of the first month beginning
12 more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act.

○

H.R. 24: SUPPORTERS

Redesignation of the Department of the Navy to be the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps

In the past eight years, the following have supported the change:

Individuals

Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitz (1963 – 1967)

Assistant Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett, III (1989 – 1992)

Acting Secretary of the Navy Daniel Howard (1992)

Secretary of the Navy John Dalton (1998 – 2001)

General Carl Mundy, 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps

General Charles Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

Admiral Stansfield Turner

Rear Admiral James T. Carey (Chairman, National Defense PAC)

Deputy Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs Wade Sanders (1993 – 1998)

James Zumwalt, Jr., (Son of the former CNO)

Associations

Fleet Reserve Association

Marine Corps League

National Defense PAC

National Association of Uniformed Services

Veterans of Foreign Wars

H.R. 24: HISTORY

The National Security Act of 1947 spells out the mission of today's Marine Corps and defines the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force as the four services given statutory missions. It clearly indicates that the Marine Corps is a legally distinct military service within the Department of the Navy.

Furthermore, in 1986, through landmark legislation known as **the Goldwater-Nichols Act**, Congress formally acknowledged the roles of each service's commanding officer. The act stated each branch's commander serves equally as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and, when called upon, as military advisors to the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the President.

Support for renaming the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps has been the House position for the last eight years, as it has been included with little debate in the annual **National Defense Authorization Act**, only to be stripped from the bill during conference with the Senate.

Previous Examples of Change:

Prior to 1947, the military establishment across the Potomac used to be known by another name – the War Department. Congress appropriately renamed that organization to what it is today – the Department of Defense

The United States Army used to have a subordinate command that served as its aviation component, the Army Air Corps. As we all know, the Army Air Corps is now the United States Air Force.

Examples of the Navy/Marine Corps Team:

- The appointment of the 1st Marine to be Commandant of Midshipman at the Naval Academy
- Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium – home of Navy Football
- Navy & Marine Corps Relief Society
- Navy & Marine Corps Tactical Aviation

CONDOLENCE LETTERS

Secretary of the Army



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Soldier
123 Anystreet Road
Anytown, USA 12345-1234

Dear Army Family,

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for the death of your son, Captain Joseph A. Soldier. The entire Army shares your sorrow.

Joseph's service to our country was a noble calling. You can be proud of Joseph's contributions to the cause of freedom.

Secretary of the Navy (Current)



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

November 18, 2008

Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine
123 Anystreet Road
Anytown, USA 12345-1234

Dear Marine Corps Family,

On behalf of the Department of the Navy, please accept my very sincere condolences on the loss of your son Captain Joseph A. Marine, from injuries sustained in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brave Americans like your son have served our Nation for

Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps (Proposed)



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

November 18, 2008



Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine
123 Anystreet Road
Anytown, USA 12345-1234

Dear Marine Corps Family,

On behalf of the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps, please accept my very sincere condolences on the loss of your son Captain Joseph A. Marine, from injuries sustained in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brave Americans like your son have served our Nation for

Current Secretary of the Navy Condolence Letter



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

November 18, 2008

Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine
123 Anystreet Road
Anytown, USA 12345-1234

Dear Marine Corps Family,

On behalf of the **Department of the Navy**, please accept my very sincere condolences on the loss of your son Captain Joseph A. Marine, from injuries sustained in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brave Americans like your son have served our Nation for 233 years to protect and defend the freedom and liberties we cherish. Joe gave his life to preserve these priceless gifts for us and for future generations. He was proud to be a Marine and to uphold the finest traditions of the Marine Corps. Please know your son's sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless you now and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Winter

Proposed Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps Condolence Letter



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

November 18, 2008



Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine
123 Anystreet Road
Anytown, USA 12345-1234

Dear Marine Corps Family,

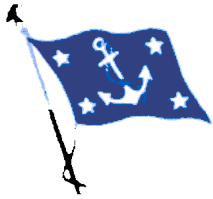
On behalf of the **Department of the Navy and Marine Corps**, please accept my very sincere condolences on the loss of your son Captain Joseph A. Marine, from injuries sustained in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brave Americans like your son have served our Nation for 233 years to protect and defend the freedom and liberties we cherish. Joe gave his life to preserve these priceless gifts for us and for future generations. He was proud to be a Marine and to uphold the finest traditions of the Marine Corps. Please know your son's sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless you now and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Winter



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL (posthumously) to

SERGEANT
MICHAEL E. BITZ
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Crew Chief and Assistant Section Leader, 3d Assault Amphibian Vehicle Section, Company C, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, Task Force TARAWA, I Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM on 23 March 2003. During the attack on An Nasiriyah, Iraq, Sergeant Bitz' vehicle sustained a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade, setting it on fire. Aware that there were several casualties on board, he maneuvered his vehicle to the Company's defensive perimeter. He immediately assisted in moving the wounded to the casualty collection point. Without an amphibious assault vehicle to command and under unrelenting enemy small arms and artillery fire, he picked up his rifle and joined a squad of 3d Platoon in a deliberate assault. His efforts substantially aided the Platoon and after the squad sustained several casualties, Sergeant Bitz ignored his own wounds and helped in loading the others onto an evacuation vehicle. Despite receiving unrelenting fire, Sergeant Bitz mounted a different vehicle to provide security for the casualties. While escorting the wounded during movement, Sergeant Bitz was mortally wounded by enemy fire when his vehicle sustained a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade. By his outstanding display of decisive leadership, unlimited courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, and utmost devotion to duty, Sergeant Bitz reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

/S/ Gordon England

Secretary of the Navy



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL (posthumously) to

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For the President,

/S/ Gordon England

Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps

ENDORSEMENTS FOR REDESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY TO BE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

“I was the Navy's senior oversight authority and policy formulator for both the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve and I traveled the world visiting Sailors and Marines. During my time with the Marines, the issue of the Marine Corps being perceived as subservient to the Navy was a frequent topic of discussion. This perception is particularly ironic in that the Marine Corps was founded prior to the Navy and, as one of our most capable and premier fighting forces, has operated as an independent partner for much of its history. *As a combat veteran and former Naval officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamic, and the importance of recognizing the contributions of team components. The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that: a dynamic partnership, and it is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership.*”

The Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, 1993-1998

“There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Navy and Marine Corps are, in deed and in fact, a team in all they do, and it is important that the American public be fully aware that these two sea services operate as a team under the same civilian senior leadership in the Department of Defense. As such, this title change helps to cement that linkage and team effort in the mind of the general public and to make it clear to all that the Navy and Marine Corps are THE TEAM that brings America its national defense capability ‘From the Sea.’ The fact that the Secretary of the Navy has senior civilian leadership authority over both services makes the addition of ‘and Marine Corps’ to his title both logical and factual.”

Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey, Chairman, National Defense PAC

“One of the things for which I am most proud that I accomplished during my tenure was moving the headquarters of the Marine Corps into the Pentagon. It was a controversial decision, but I am convinced that it was the right thing to do. As you know, they were previously located at the Navy Annex. I believe that the move enhanced the stature of the Marine Corps and provided the access to assist that great service in better representing its men and women on major policy decisions of the Defense Department. Your legislation would be another vital step to give that distinguished service the recognition it so greatly deserves.”

The Honorable John Dalton, 70th Secretary of the Navy

“This bill is a perfectly logical evolution in a series of legislative initiatives designed, in part, to clarify and codify the role of the U.S. Marine Corps that began with Defense Reorganization in the post-war period of the late 1940's. I enthusiastically support both its spirit and intent.”

General Charles Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

“I believe the changes you propose will do much to clarify the relationship, responsibilities and functions of the appointed civilian authority over the United States naval services. Further it will strengthen the understanding of the naval force structure within our defense establishment, and to the services that comprise it. *Finally, I believe that any Secretary – present, past, or future – will be very proud to bear the title ‘Marine,’ as well as ‘Navy.’*”

General Carl Mundy, 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps

“The Marines have earned this long overdue recognition and hopefully your colleagues will see this as the right thing to do.”

Hershel Gober, former Acting Secretary of the Veterans Administration

“The Corps has filled a unique niche in the Nation’s history not duplicated by any of the other armed services. It provides exceptional and exclusive capabilities in concert with its sister services, in war and in peace. And, finally, the Corps as the second most senior armed service should receive the honor it truly deserves – equitable distinction among the military departments in the U.S. defense structure.”

Joseph L. Barnes, National Executive Secretary, Fleet Reserve Association

“I think this change in title enhances the prestige and pride of the people in the Marine Corps. And it does not necessarily take anything away from the Navy in that process.”

Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy (Ret.), HASC hearing, March 18, 2004

“WHEREAS; The Marine Corps is steeped in tradition, but historically, these traditions are in concert with the Navy. The perception that the Marine Corps is under the Navy rather than being equal is a real and evident issue. The Congress previously declared that there are *four* branches of the military, however there are only *three* departments.

BE IT NOW THEREFOR RESOLVED BY the Marine Corps League, in regular session of the Department, hereby unanimously supports A BILL, H.R. 34, 109th Congress, 1st SESSION, to re-designate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. Also, the position of the Secretary of the Navy to be redesignated as the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps and all other Statutory Offices be redesignated accordingly”

Resolution by the Marine Corps League – March 19, 2005

Marine Corps Commandant General James Jones
U.S. Naval Institute Annual Meeting – April 4, 2002

Q: Legislation [HR 3478] has been introduced to rename the Secretary of the Navy – what is your view?

A: “The Secretary [of the Navy Gordon England] has no objection. The CNO [Chief Naval Operations Admiral Vern Clark] has no objection. I have no objection. It’s what he is. So if it passes, we’re very happy with that. Maybe that’s something that is an idea that lawmakers believe whose time has come.”

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

DAVID HILLER, *Publisher* ANN MARIE LIPINSKI, *Editor*

R. BRUCE DOLD, *Editorial Page Editor* JAMES O'SHEA, *Managing Editor*

GEORGE DE LAMA, *Deputy Managing Editor, News* JAMES WARREN, *Deputy Managing Editor, Features*

TIMOTHY J. McNULTY, *Public Editor*

EDITORIALS

Step up for the Marines

No service branch shows more respect for tradition than the U.S. Marine Corps does, which makes it all the more ironic that tradition denies the corps an important show of respect: Equal billing with the other service branches.

The Continental Congress ordered "two Battalions of Marines" to be raised in 1775 as landing forces for the Navy. The Marines have remained within the Navy on government organization charts ever since, even though the corps functions through wartime and peacetime as a separate branch in every other way.

Like the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Marine Corps has its own command structure. Its commandant holds equal status with other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which happens to be chaired for the first time by a Marine, Gen. Peter Pace.

Several Marine veterans and supporters have launched an online petition drive to support a bill proposed by Rep. Walter B. Jones. The North Carolina Republican, whose district includes Camp Lejeune, wants to fix the matter simply by

changing the Department of the Navy to the "Department of the Navy and Marine Corps."

Jones has twice passed similar measures in the House with bipartisan support, but the Senate was cool to them. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, a Virginia Republican, veteran and former Navy secretary, has promised "fair consideration" for the legislation. That's Senate-speak for a reluctance to commit. His reluctance seems to be rooted in a sense of tradition. But sometimes its good to break with tradition. The War Department, for example, became the Defense Department after World War II. The Army Air Corps was elevated in 1941 to the Army Air Forces and in 1947 to the autonomous Air Force.

The Marines have not asked for complete autonomy. Nothing structurally needs to change in their relationship with the Navy, which has served both branches well. The corps only asks for recognition. Having served their nation proudly and courageously since colonial days, the leathernecks have earned a promotion.



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Department of Michigan

Date: July 4, 2007

Dear Senator Levin,

I am writing with regard to language that was included in H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which passed the House of Representatives on May 17, 2007. The language – included in Sec. 905 of the bill – redesignates the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. Since 1775, the Marine Corps and Navy have been this country's military "Hammer and Anvil," forging arguably the greatest team in military history. Why shouldn't the name of the Department give equal recognition to both members of the team?

On the floor of the House last May, Representative Walter B. Jones (NC-03) described the widespread support for this proposed redesignation. Several Secretaries of the Navy, Marine Corps Commandants, and thousands of distinguished military men and women of all branches and ranks have endorsed this change. (Comments enclosed.)

As the Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Department of Michigan, representing more than 2,000 Michigan Marines, we are individually and collectively seeking your assistance in redesignating the Department of the Navy as the DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.

We were extremely pleased when you publicly pledged to "keep an open mind" on whether to support the House language during conference negotiations. As the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we would be most grateful if you would **champion** this change for the United States Marine Corps when the House and Senate Armed Services Committees meet in conference.

Recently, Michigan Marine Reserve Units returned from Iraq minus 22 of their fellow Marines who had been killed in action. Those Marine families received a certificate that stated, "Department of the Navy." Nowhere did the certificate state "U.S. Marine Corps." These men and all their fellow Marines deserve to be recognized specifically as Marines – in death and when awarded medals of valor and distinction. They are and always will be MARINES.

We are asking you, as a veteran of the greatest Air Force (not Army Air Corps) in the world, to join us in taking the moral high ground by righting this wrong. The souls of those Michigan Marines, and all those before and after them, are counting on you.

God Bless,
Semper Fidelis,

Warren Tracey
Commandant, MCL
Department of Michigan

Gerald Alcorn
Jr. Past Department
Commandant

Tony Gillum
Sr. Vice
Commandant

Phil Zamora
Jr. Vice
Commandant

Department of Michigan Marine Corps League • <http://www.michiganmarines.org>

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



MIKE COX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 30212
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

August 13, 2007

Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
269 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

From its creation in Tun Tavern on November 10, 1775, to the current Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the Marine Corps has prided itself on being America's fiercest fighting force. That is why I support the legislation introduced by North Carolina Congressman Walter Jones that would rename the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps is the smallest branch of service in the Department of Defense, consisting of 10% of all forces, but during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the Marine Corps has suffered 25% of all United States fatalities. To date the Marine Corps has endured 995 total deaths in both theatres of operation. This figure parallels the sacrifices made by Marines of previous wars such as World War II, during which Marines suffered nearly 20,000 killed in action, and Vietnam, where the Marine Corps sustained almost 28% of all combat fatalities. For these reasons and many more, the American public understandably views the accomplishments of the Marine Corps to be just as important as the accomplishments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The United States Government spelled out the role of the Marine Corps in the National Security Act of 1947, which also defined the Marine Corps, Army, Navy, and Air Force as four separate branches of service. This act clearly stated that the Marine Corps is a distinct branch of service operating within the Department of the Navy.

In addition, through the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, Congress formally recognized the commanding officers of each branch of service. The Goldwater-Nichols Act declared that each branch's commander serve equally as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This act signifies that the Commandant of the Marine Corps is not in a subordinate relationship to the Chief of Naval Operations, but that they both hold equal status on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Today, the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a Marine, General Peter Pace.

Honorable Carl Levin

Page 2

We have a proud history and deserve the recognition that the other services receive. I say "we" because I, myself, was once Corporal Cox, U.S.M.C. Marines became the first U.S. troops to fight a land battle on foreign soil in 1806 when fighting the Barbary pirates of Tripoli. We gained the nickname "Devil Dogs" from the German Army after routing them at the Battle of Belleau Wood in World War I, and we raised the U.S. flag on Mount Surabachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

Our long and proud history more than justifies the Marine Corps receiving the status of an equal partner with the Department of the Navy. I hope you will join me in supporting this long overdue change to more adequately reflect the unique and historic contribution of the Marine Corps. Thank you.

Sincerely,


MIKE COX
Attorney General

Carl,
I would greatly appreciate
your consideration of this timely issue
Mike

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

28 August 2007

The Honorable Walter Jones
United States House Of Representatives
North Carolina (3rd)
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Independence Avenue and S. Capitol Street SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Jones:

On the 17th Day of March 2007, the Marine Corps League, Department of Virginia unanimously passed a resolution to support H.R.346 to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. Furthermore, the position of the Secretary of the Navy be redesignated as the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps and all other Statutory Offices be redesignated accordingly. That resolution was then forwarded to the Marine Corps League's National Resolutions Committee to be brought before the National Marine Corps League Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On Thursday, the 9th day of August 2007, the above referenced resolution was brought before the body assembled in National Convention. The National Convention of the Marine Corps League representing our nearly 70,000 members unanimously adopted a resolution to support H.R. 346 (now H.R. 1585, Section 905, National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008).

The Marine Corps League's members join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen, who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps. It takes great pride in crediting its founding in 1923 to World War I hero, then

"Once a Marine, always a Marine"

Address for packages express mail: 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 201, Fairfax, VA 22031

Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. It takes equal pride in its Federal Charter, approved by An Act of the Seventy-Fifth Congress of the United States of America and signed and approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 4, 1937. The League is the only Federally Chartered Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country.

It is with our rich history in mind that we wholeheartedly endorse and support your efforts to have Congress redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

It would please us tremendously if you would take every opportunity to share this Resolution with your colleagues in the House and Senate. Please don't hesitate to call upon the Marine Corps League at any time in the future if there is anything we can do for you, for our Congress, for our Country or for our beloved Corps.

Semper Fidelis –

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Blum", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Blum
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Attachment:



125 N. West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

1-800-FRA-1924
703-683-1400
703-549-6610 (fax)

9 January 2009

The Honorable Walter Jones
U.S. House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-3286

Dear Congressman Jones:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) strongly supports your legislation (H.R. 24) to rename the Department of the Navy as the "Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps." This change would enhance the role of the Marine Corps as an equal member of the Armed Services in the eyes of our citizens, who have always admired the Marines for their dedication and service to the nation.

The Corps' continued operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan merits recognition as a separate Armed Service, however, in view of the Navy-Marine Corps concept and the extraordinary expense of establishing a separate entity, the most sensible solution would be to change the title of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The previous appointment of the Commandant of the Marine Corps as a permanent member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was sufficient justification to recognize the Corps as an Armed Service equal to the task of providing its opinion and recommendations on joint and combined operations with the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Subsequently, the assignment of a distinguished Marine as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the appointment of a Commandant as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, only adds to the justification. These appointments have placed the Marine Corps on an equal footing with other services.

The Corps has filled a unique niche in the nation's history not duplicated by any other Armed Services. It has provided exceptional and exclusive capabilities in concert with its sister services, in war and peace. Recognizing the Corps as an equal partner in a new Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps would give the Marines the distinction and esteem they truly deserve.

The Association stands ready to assist you in promoting this legislation. The FRA point of contact is John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs at the above numbers or (john@fra.org).

Sincerely,

JOSEPH L. BARNES
National Executive Director

JLB:tw

cc: Legislative Assistant to the Commandant
SGTMAJ USMC



Resolution No. 431

RE-DESIGNATE THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AS THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

WHEREAS, on November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a resolution directing that two battalions of Marines be raised for the service as landing forces with the fleet, thereby establishing the Continental Marines and signifying the birth of the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, the Marines throughout our Nation's history have often been called upon to be the first into battle and have accepted this duty without hesitation and with a sense of honor and esprit de corps that is second to none; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 231-year history of the Navy and Marine Corps, they have fought side by side as a cohesive team against any interest that would do or cause harm to this nation; and

WHEREAS, on 30 September 2005 the first, United States Marine was sworn as the sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps is the only service in the Department of Defense without a specific service Secretary and the Secretary of the Navy serves as both the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of the Marine Corps; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support legislation to re-designate the position of the Secretary of the Navy to Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Adopted by the 108th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 18-23, 2007