

Maryland as the Bicentennial Navy State

FOR the purpose of requesting that Maryland declare itself the Bicentennial Navy State for the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, The first naval unit known as the Maryland Sea Service, later as the Baltimore City Brigade of Naval Militia, Maryland Sea Fencibles and the Maryland Naval Militia, was organized on January 6, 1775 by Commodore Samuel Purviance and the Committee of Safety at Fells Point in Baltimore Towne; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Sea Service raised the first naval force to oppose the British in the Patapsco and Upper Chesapeake with the armed schooners Defensive, Defense and Defiant; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Sea Service did raise the first Maryland Marines in June, 1775 and did join forces with the newly organized Pennsylvania Navy to form the Continental Navy, jointly sailing to raid both the Bahamas and Bermuda to acquire powder and arms for the Continental Army; and

WHEREAS, Maryland provided such great naval heroes as Samuel Purviance, Hugh Purviance, Samuel Nicholson, Joseph Nicholson, David Porter, Sr., David Porter, Jr., Joshua Barney, John Rodgers, Franklin Buchanan, Raphael Semmes and countless others; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore and Maryland counties provided most of the privately armed vessels which broke the economic back of Britain's merchant trade and drove British insurance rates to a point of economic disaster; and

WHEREAS, The Privateers and Letter of Marque vessels from Maryland captured more enemy shipping in the American Revolution and War of 1812 than any other state; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Sea Fencibles defended Maryland against invasion of British forces at Baltimore under the command of Barney, Rodman, Rodgers and Decatur on September 12, 13 and 14, 1814; and

WHEREAS, The Frigate Constellation has been designated as Flagship of the National Bicentennial and is the Flagship of the State of Maryland by Act of the Legislature in 1967; and

WHEREAS, The Constellation was the first commissioned ship of the new U.S. Navy of 1794 and was built and launched from the yard of Major David Stodder, the outstanding Maryland Army Militia hero of the