

Dec. Sec. 1822

Isaac Hull, John M. Gamble, William B. Shubrick, Francis Mallaby, F. Buchanan, Samuel R. Trevitt, jun. R. C. Ludlow, Cherver Felch, Francis H. Gregory and Frederick P. Markham, their associates and successors, shall be, and they are hereby created a corporation and body politic, within this state, by the name and style of the United States' Naval Fraternal Association, for the relief of the families of deceased officers, and by that name shall be, and they hereby are made capable in law to hold, purchase, receive, possess and enjoy, to them and their successors, goods, chattles, effects and every kind of personal estate and real estate, within this state, not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars in value, and the same to sell, grant and dispose of; also to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in any courts of this state having competent jurisdiction.

Powers.

2. *And be it enacted*, That the said corporation shall have power to make and use a common seal, and the same to break and alter; to ordain and establish such by-laws and regulations as they shall deem proper for the management and direction of the affairs of said corporation and the government thereof, not being contrary to this act, or to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of this state; and generally to do and perform all acts, matters and things, which pertain to the character of a corporation aggregate, subject as aforesaid.

Members.

3. *And be it enacted*, That the said corporation shall be composed of such commissioned officers in the navy and marine corps, and of such sailing masters and midshipmen, not less than eighteen years of age, as may from time to time agree to become members, by subscribing the constitution of the said corporation, made in pursuance of the authority hereby granted, and shall pay the fees and assessments therein prescribed.

Officers, elections, &c.

4. *And be it enacted*, That the government and direction of the concerns of said corporation shall be vested in a president, vice-president, board of directors, treasurer, secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary. The board of directors shall consist of one member from each grade of officers in the navy, entitled to admission into the corporation, and of one from the marine corps, and shall be chosen annually on the first Monday in October, by the members of the corporation, at such place on each naval station, and at such time on said day, as the senior naval officer, being a member there resident, shall appoint, of which he shall give public notice at least ten days previously; at which meeting the officers of each class or grade shall vote for one director of their own class or grade respectively, and the votes being taken and counted by the presiding officer and secretary chosen by said meeting, and by one officer from each grade designated by the meeting for that purpose, if an such are present, shall be certified by the presiding officer and secretary aforesaid, and transmitted to the secretary of the board of directors, within ten days thereafter; the votes aforesaid may be given in person, or by proxy of the same grade; the secretary of the board and the treasurer shall count the votes given by the classes or grades respectively, which shall have been returned within sixty days after the election, and the officer having the greatest number of votes of each class shall be duly elected, and the secretary shall make a record thereof accordingly, and shall forthwith notify each director, so chosen, of his election. All vacancies in any board of directors shall be filled by the remaining members, and in case any two or more officers have