58th Legislature HR0002.02

1	HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2
2	INTRODUCED BY GALVIN-HALCRO
3	
4	A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING
5	THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF UNITED STATES SEAGOING MARINES AND THE NAVAL CRUISE
6	SHIP, USS HELENA, AND DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2003 AS UNITED STATES SEAGOING MARINES
7	MONTH.
8	
9	WHEREAS, seagoing marines have served aboard ships of the United States Navy from 1775 to 1998
10	and
11	WHEREAS, for 223 years, the seagoing marines participated in every naval campaign and battle to
12	safeguard the freedom and liberty that all Montanans expect and enjoy today; and
13	WHEREAS, the USS Helena CL-50 was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese
14	attacked and, because the ship was in the berth normally assigned to the Pennsylvania, became a prime target
15	but the ship survived the attack and later gave the Japanese occasion to regret their failure to destroy it; and
16	WHEREAS, in 1942, the USS Helena entered action in Guadalcanal, where the long and bloody battle
17	for the island was then beginning, and on September 15, 1942, with guns blazing, the USS Helena rescued
18	nearly 400 of the officers and crew of the Wasp (AV-7); and
19	WHEREAS, the USS Helena again saw action on October 11, 1942, in the Battle of Cape Esperance
20	in Iron Bottom Sound, protecting vital transports into Guadalcanal during which the USS Helena was the first
21	to engage the enemy and sank the cruiser Furutaka and the destroyer Fubuki; and
22	WHEREAS, the USS Helena saw action several times during the climactic Naval Battle of Guadalcana
23	in November 1942, which the USS Helena witnessed from its beginning while escorting a supply echelon from
24	Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal; and
25	WHEREAS, the USS Helena was assigned to several bombardments of Japanese positions on New
26	Georgia during January 1943, and the ship's guns rocked the enemy at Munda and Vila Stanmore, leveling vita
27	supply concentrations and gun emplacements; and
28	WHEREAS, USS Helena's intense and rapid-fire bombardment in support of troop landings during the
29	invasion of New Georgia made the ship a prime target, and it was hit by three Japanese torpedoes, which sank
30	the USS Helena; and



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1	WHEREAS, during the USS Helena's final moments, with the bow protruding from the water, the USS
2	Helena served as a lifeboat to many of the survivors until they were rescued before the USS Helena sank; and
3	WHEREAS, other armed service personnel from the USSHelenaenduredmanydramaticandharrowingMHEREAS, and the USSHelenaenduredmanydramaticandharrowingMHEREAS, and the USSHelenaenduredmanydramaticandharro
4	hours and days before being finally rescued, with 168 of the USS Helena's crew of 900 perishing; and
5	WHEREAS, the USS Helena was the first ship to receive the Navy Unit Commendation for the ship's
6	actions in the Battle of Cape Esperance, Guadalcanal, and in Kula Gulf; and
7	WHEREAS, the USS Helena also earned the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign medal with seven stars;
8	and
9	WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the valiant deeds of the USS Helena and the ship's crew and all
10	seagoing marines and their vessels be recognized and celebrated by the citizens of Montana.
11	
12	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
13	MONTANA:
14	That the House of Representatives of the State of Montana recognize the dedicated service of the
15	seagoing marines and, in commemoration of the USS Helena's service during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal
16	in November of 1942, declare the month of November 2003 as United States Seagoing Marines month.
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the United
18	States Seagoing Marine Association.
19	- END -

