

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1602

SPONSOR: Senator Wise

SUBJECT: U.S. Navy War Ship/Charles Bennett

DATE: January 30, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Krasovsky	Krasovsky	MS	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	RC	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This Memorial urges the United States Congress to request that the Secretary of the Navy name a future United States Navy warship the "USS Charles E. Bennett" in honor of United States Representative Bennett who served in Congress for 44 years and died September 6, 2003, at the age of 92.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, there are 294 ships in commission in the United States Navy. This year the Navy plans to add two new warships to its fleet. Both additions will be guided missile destroyers which provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. At this point neither guided missile destroyer has been named. While guided missile destroyers have been traditionally named after distinguished United States Navy and Marine Corps officers and enlisted men, the actual naming is ultimately the decision of the Secretary of the Navy.

The Secretary has various resources to assist him in naming a ship. The Chief of Naval Operations submits a memorandum to the Secretary with proposed names for all current projects. This list is derived from research and suggestions from the Naval Historical Center. Ship name recommendations are factored by such criteria as name categories for various types of ships, previous ships with exceptional service in the Navy, naval leaders, national figures, and deceased members of the Navy and Marine Corps who have been honored for heroism in war or for extraordinary achievement in peace. The Secretary considers these recommendations, along with others he receives from individuals and groups, as well as his own thoughts.

Charles Edward Bennett

Before Charles Edward Bennett was elected to Congress he served the Florida Legislature cutting his term short to enlist as a Private in the United States Army. Congressman Bennett served 6 years as a combat Infantryman, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Philippine Legion of Honor and Gold Cross, and the French Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur for gallantry action.

Congressman Bennett served in Congress for 44 years before his death in 2003. Congressman Bennett still holds the congressional record for not missing a legislative recorded vote in 41 years. As well as serving as Dean and Chairman of Florida's Delegation, Congressman Bennett served as Chairman of the Seapower and Strategic Materials Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee for 24 years. He was, as stated in a resolution from that committee, "the most influential Member of Congress on naval shipbuilding and naval policy for more than two decades." In this time he sponsored bills that provided needed ships to the Navy, increased military pay, improved military housing, reformed military justice, and created the Arms Control Agency.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This Memorial urges the United States Congress to request that the Secretary of the Navy name a future United States Navy warship the "USS Charles E. Bennett" in honor of United States Representative Bennett who died September 6, 2003, at the age of 92.

Copies of this memorial are to be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

C. Government Sector Impact:

There will not be an economic impact since the cost incurred for naming a United States warship will not be affected by the name.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
