

1 [Urging the U.S. Navy to Name a Ship in Honor of Joseph Rosenthal]

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3 **Resolution urging the naming of a United States Navy Ship in honor of Joseph**  
4 **Rosenthal, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the raising of the American Flag at**  
5 **Iwo Jima captured the sacrifice of an entire generation of Americans.**

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7 WHEREAS, This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, which we  
8 fought from February 19 to March 26, 1945; and

9 WHEREAS, During World War II, Joseph Rosenthal served as a warrant officer in the  
10 Merchant marines and as a photographer for the Associated Press; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal shared courage under fire with Army soldiers and Marines  
12 flying on a Navy dive-bombing mission, sailing aboard many U.S. Navy ships, making four  
13 amphibious landings, and was atop Mt. Suribachi, on February 23, 1945, during the fierce  
14 battle for Iwo Jima; and

15 WHEREAS, The raising of "Old Glory" on Mt. Suribachi marked victory of the Battle of  
16 Iwo Jima and promised ultimate victory in the Pacific theater and worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, The photo memorializes the nearly 7,000 Americans who died and the  
18 some 21,000 who were wounded in the Battle of Iwo Jima, the only Pacific battle in which  
19 U.S. casualties were greater than Japanese casualties, though 21,000 Japanese died and  
20 only some 1,200 survived; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal's dramatic photograph has become among the most  
22 recognized and reproduced images in history; and

23 WHEREAS, The photo of six U.S. Marines working together demonstrates the spirit of  
24 teamwork that makes America exceptional; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal’s photograph has endured for more than seven decades as  
2 a symbol of America’s unity and enduring pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

3           WHEREAS, In the Spring of 1945, Mr. Rosenthal was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the  
4 first and only time the prize was awarded to a photo made in the same year; and

5           WHEREAS, The flag itself, tattered after a month’s exposure to Suribachi’s constant  
6 Pacific winds, was raised over the U.S. Capitol; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal’s photograph is a lasting memorial to those who faced the  
8 ultimate sacrifice in defending America; and

9           WHEREAS, Many decades later Mr. Rosenthal’s photograph remains an enduring  
10 symbol of the American experience; and

11           WHEREAS, The Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the United States Marine Corps Combat  
12 Correspondents Association, formerly the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, launched a  
13 petition to encourage the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a ship for Joe  
14 Rosenthal; and

15           WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of the Navy has sole authority to name Navy  
16 vessels; now, therefore be it

17           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco  
18 do hereby endorse and support the effort of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat  
19 Correspondents Association to encourage the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a  
20 Navy ship in honor of Joseph John Rosenthal.

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