

1 [Urging the Secretary of the Navy to Christen a Ship as the U.S.S. Harvey Milk]
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3 **Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to christen a ship as the “U.S.S. Harvey**
4 **Milk.”**
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6 WHEREAS, Supervisor Harvey Milk was the first high visibility, openly gay elected
7 official in the United States, having spent years as a community leader in San Francisco
8 building our neighborhoods and strengthening the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
9 (LGBT) community; and

10 WHEREAS, Supervisor Milk served honorably on the San Francisco Board of
11 Supervisors and continued his leadership in that capacity, working to improve the quality of
12 life of all San Franciscans and to achieve economic and social justice; and

13 WHEREAS, Supervisor Milk was tragically murdered while serving in his official
14 capacity at San Francisco City Hall; and

15 WHEREAS, Supervisor Milk previously served as an officer in the United States Navy,
16 including service in the Korean War, and did so honorably and with distinction; and

17 WHEREAS, LGBT people have served in the United States Armed Forces, including
18 the Navy, for centuries, almost always in the closet and under threat of expulsion for the
19 simple act of being LGBT; and

20 WHEREAS, in recent years and due to the extraordinary work of advocates in the
21 community and elected leaders, the Armed Services and society at large have come to
22 recognize the contributions to and participation in the Armed Services of our LGBT service
23 members; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 2010, President Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of
2 2010, which repealed the odious "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, a law that required LGBT service
3 members to hide their identity or risk expulsion; and

4 WHEREAS, it is time to recognize the contributions of United States Navy LGBT
5 service members by naming a ship after an LGBT veteran; and

6 WHEREAS, Supervisor Milk, in light of his role as a community leader, trailblazer,
7 visionary elected official, and Navy veteran, fits such a role perfectly on his own behalf and on
8 behalf of the LGBT community; and

9 WHEREAS, Congressman Bob Filner of San Diego, the ranking Democrat on the
10 House Armed Services Committee, has requested that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus christen a
11 Navy ship after Supervisor Milk; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports Congressman
13 Filner's request, endorses the idea of christening a Navy ship as the "U.S.S. Harvey Milk," and
14 urges Secretary Mabus to take this action; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor and our
16 Federal representatives to support this naming and to encourage Secretary Mabus to do so.