File No. 120447	Committee Item No
	Board Item No.

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to christen a ship as the "U.S.S. Harvey Milk."

WHEREAS, Supervisor Harvey Milk was the first high visibility, openly gay elected official in the United States, having spent years as a community leader in San Francisco building our neighborhoods and strengthening the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in recent years and due to the extraordinary work of advocates in the community and elected leaders, the Armed Services and society at large have come to recognize the contributions to and participation in the Armed Services of our LGBT service members; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, President Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, which repealed the odious "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, a law that required LGBT service members to hide their identity or risk expulsion; and

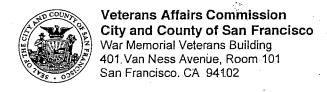
WHEREAS, it is time to recognize the contributions of United States Navy LGBT service members by naming a ship after an LGBT veteran; and

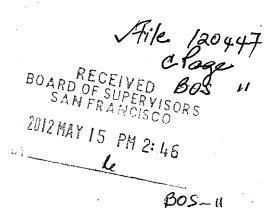
WHEREAS, Supervisor Milk, in light of his role as a community leader, trailblazer, visionary elected official, and Navy veteran, fits such a role perfectly on his own behalf and on behalf of the LGBT community; and

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

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

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





May 15, 2012

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission Supports the Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to christen a ship as the "U.S.S. Harvey Milk."

Dear San Francisco Supervisor David Campos:

I am writing to share with you the recent support by the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission of the Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to christen a ship as the "U.S.S. Harvey Milk," drafted by Supervisor Scott Wiener.

On the May 7, 2012, SFVAC meeting, the discussion and endorsement of this Resolution was discussed at length and the **SFVAC voted to Support this Resolution** as it moves before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Ed Lee.

This tribute would be fitting for Harvey Milk, an Honorably Discharged United States Navy Veteran who contributed so much to the LGBT community as we know it today.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caldera

President, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission

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