

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to ensure that the aircraft carrier USS John F.
4 Kennedy remains in active service, that Naval Station
5 Mayport remains the home port for the USS John F. Kennedy,
6 and that the strength of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic carrier
7 fleet is maintained at its current level.

8
9 WHEREAS, the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy remains a
10 vital component in our national defense and security, having
11 recently completed a 6-month combat tour in Southwest Asia, and

12 WHEREAS, the USS John F. Kennedy has an immensely
13 beneficial economic impact on the City of Jacksonville and the
14 entire surrounding area, amounting to approximately \$200 million
15 in revenue annually, and

16 WHEREAS, the USS John F. Kennedy underwent an extended
17 pier-side overhaul in 2003 at a cost of over \$350 million, which
18 was performed using local shipyards and technical support, and

19 WHEREAS, the current home station of the USS John F.
20 Kennedy, Naval Station Mayport, provides for the strategic
21 dispersal of the United States Navy's Atlantic carrier fleet and
22 speedy access to the open ocean in the event of an emergency and
23 is one of the most requested duty stations in the United States
24 Navy, and

25 WHEREAS, the State of Florida and City of Jacksonville are
26 currently underwriting a study to determine the infrastructure
27 improvements that would be needed in order to provide Naval

28 Station Mayport with the capability of serving as a home port
29 for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, and

30 WHEREAS, it is reported that the Department of Defense has
31 determined that, in order to save funds in the immediate term,
32 it will recommend to the President the elimination of the USS
33 John F. Kennedy's scheduled shipyard overhaul which would extend
34 its serviceable life to 2018, and will recommend that the ship
35 be decommissioned in 2005, thus reducing the Navy's carrier
36 fleet to 11 ships and placing all Atlantic-based carriers at one
37 port, NOW, THEREFORE,

38

39 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40

41 That the Congress of the United States is urged to oppose
42 decommissioning the USS John F. Kennedy from active status, is
43 urged to allow Naval Station Mayport to remain the home port for
44 the USS John F. Kennedy until such time as Naval Station Mayport
45 has the capability to support and serve as the home port for a
46 nuclear aircraft carrier, and is urged to maintain the strength
47 of the United States Navy's Atlantic carrier fleet at its
48 current level.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
50 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
51 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
52 United States House of Representatives, to the Secretary of
53 Defense, to the Secretary of the Navy, and to each member of the
54 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.