

HM 821

2005

## House Memorial

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

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9 WHEREAS, the aircraft carrier U.S.S. John F. Kennedy  
10 remains a vital component in our national defense and security,  
11 having recently completed a six-month combat tour in Southeast  
12 Asia, and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the State of Florida and City of Jacksonville are  
27 currently underwriting a study to determine the infrastructure  
28 improvements that would be needed in order to provide Naval  
29 Station Mayport with the capability of serving as a home port  
30 for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, and

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

39

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

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

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