

HR 27 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2364

06/08

HOUSE RESOLUTION

27

A RESOLUTION urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to open an investigation into the United States' response to the USS Liberty incident.

SPONSORS: Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1; Rep. Barton, Graf. 1; Rep. Gagne, Hills. 16; Rep. Granger, Straf. 2; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Kuttab, Rock. 17; Rep. Noble, Hills. 2

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

ANALYSIS

This resolution urges New Hampshire's congressional delegation to open an investigation in the United States' response to the USS Liberty incident.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

A RESOLUTION urging New Hampshire's congressional delegation to open an investigation into the United States' response to the USS Liberty incident.

1 Whereas, on June 8, 1967, the USS Liberty, a United States Navy technical research ship, was
2 attacked by Israeli jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats in international waters off the
3 northern coast of the Sinai Peninsula during the Six-Day War; and

4 Whereas, the attack killed 34 American crew members, including naval officers, seamen, 2
5 Marines, and one civilian NSA employee, and wounded 171 others, representing a casualty rate of
6 approximately 70 percent of the crew; and

7 Whereas, the USS Liberty was clearly marked with American identification, including a 5-by-8-
8 foot American flag, large white letters and numerals on its hull, and the designation "GTR-5" on its
9 bow and stern, all of which were visible under clear weather conditions on the day of the attack; and

10 Whereas, the attack, which involved multiple Israeli aircraft conducting strafing runs with
11 rockets, cannon fire, and napalm, followed by torpedo boat attacks, lasted approximately an hour, a
12 duration that is inconsistent with claims of mistaken identity; and

13 Whereas, survivors of the USS Liberty, including Captain William McGonagle, who was awarded
14 the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the attack, have testified that they were pressured
15 by United States authorities, including threats of court-martial, imprisonment, or worse, to remain
16 silent about the details of the incident; and

17 Whereas, the United States Naval Court of Inquiry, conducted in 1967, has been described by
18 survivors and some officials, including Captain Ward Boston, counsel to the inquiry, as "shallow"
19 and "perfunctory," with allegations that it was directed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and
20 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to conclude the attack was a case of mistaken identity
21 despite evidence to the contrary; and

22 Whereas, the June 28, 1967, Defense Department public summary of proceedings of the Navy
23 Court of Inquiry into the attack stated: "It was not the responsibility of the Court to rule on the
24 culpability of the attackers and no evidence was heard from the attacking nation"; and,

25 Whereas, in 2005, the Navy's Office of the Judge Advocate General stated: "The Court of Inquiry
26 was the only United States Government investigation into the attack"; and,

27 Whereas, the New Hampshire house of representatives received testimony from USS Liberty
28 survivors, including but not limited to, before the state-federal relations and veterans affairs
29 committee, detailing their experiences of the attack, the pressure to remain silent, and their belief
30 that the incident was not adequately investigated; and

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1 Whereas, the New Hampshire house of representatives recognizes the importance of
2 transparency and accountability in addressing incidents involving the loss of American lives and the
3 integrity of United States foreign relations; and

4 Whereas, more than 58 years after the attack, significant documentation remains classified, and
5 the survivors' calls for a comprehensive congressional investigation have gone unheeded; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the House of Representatives:

8 That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the United States Congress to conduct
9 a full, transparent, and independent investigation into the attack on the USS Liberty on June 8,
10 1967, and the subsequent response by the United States government, specifically addressing:

11 I. The allegations by USS Liberty survivors that they were pressured by United States
12 authorities, through threats of court-martial, imprisonment, or worse, to remain silent about the
13 details of the attack;

14 II. The claim that the duration of the attack, involving multiple aircraft and torpedo boats
15 over approximately 42 to 60 minutes, was too prolonged to be consistent with mistaken identity;

16 III. The assertions by multiple crew members that the USS Liberty was clearly marked with
17 American colors, including a visible American flag and hull markings, during the attack;

18 IV. The declassification and public release of all relevant documents pertaining to the USS
19 Liberty incident to ensure transparency and accountability; and

20 Let it be further resolved that the New Hampshire house of representatives encourages the
21 Congress to hold public hearings, including testimony from surviving crew members, to address
22 these concerns and provide closure to the families of those killed and wounded; and that copies of
23 this resolution be transmitted by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the Speaker
24 of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each
25 member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.