

Public Law 103-71
103d Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate September 13, 1993, as "Commodore John Barry Day".

Aug. 11, 1993

[H.J. Res. 157]

Whereas the United States of America is a nation of immigrants and the contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants to the defense of the public liberty has been a hallmark of Irish Americans;

Whereas during the War for Independence Captain John Barry, a native of County Wexford, Ireland, achieved the first victory for the Continental Navy while in command of the ship "Lexington" by capturing the British ship "Edward", organizing General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River which led to the victory at Trenton in 1776, transported gold from France to America while in command of the ship "Alliance", and achieved the last victory of the war for the Continental Navy while in command of "Alliance" by defeating the British ship HMS "Sybille";

Whereas during the War for Independence Captain John Barry rejected British General Lord Howe's offer to desert the Continental Navy and join the British Navy, stating: "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can lure me from the cause of my country.";

Whereas after the War for Independence the United States Congress recognized John Barry as the premier American naval hero of that war;

Whereas in 1787 Captain John Barry organized the compulsory attendance of members of the Pennsylvania Assembly in Philadelphia, thus ensuring the quorum necessary to call a Convention and recommend the ratification of the Constitution;

Whereas on June 14, 1794, pursuant to "Commission No. 1", President Washington commissioned John Barry as commodore in the new United States Navy;

Whereas Commodore John Barry helped to build and lead the new United States Navy which included his command of the U.S.S. "United States" and the U.S.S. "Constitution" ("Old Ironsides");

Whereas Commodore John Barry is recognized along with General Stephen Moylan in the Statue of Liberty Museum as one of six foreign-born great leaders of the War for Independence;

Whereas in 1991 and 1992 President George Bush proclaimed September 13 as "Commodore John Barry Day"; and

Whereas designating a day to commemorate Commodore John Barry would be important to United States Navy veterans, Irish Americans, and to all the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That September 13, 1993, is designated as "Commodore John Barry Day", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved August 11, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 157:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):
Aug. 5, considered and passed House.
Aug. 6, considered and passed Senate.