

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 288

Reps. Witwer, Tate, Lasinski, Haadsma, Kennedy, Sabo, Garza, Shannon, Mueller, Tyrone Carter, Brenda Carter, Bolden and Hood offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the  
2 sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*.

3           Whereas, July 30, 2020, commemorates the 75th anniversary of  
4 the sinking of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*; and

5           Whereas, On this day, we honor the ship's survivors for their  
6 perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States of America;  
7 and

8           Whereas, During the Second World War, the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*  
9 completed a top-secret high-speed trip to the island of Tinian to  
10 deliver uranium to be used in the first nuclear weapon to be



1 dropped on Japan to end the war swiftly and prevent a costly  
2 invasion of its mainland; and

3       Whereas, After delivering its cargo, the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*  
4 departed the island of Tinian to the Philippines, expecting no  
5 Japanese resistance; and

6       Whereas, In July 1945, on the 30th day, at 0015 hours, the  
7 USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by an Imperial Japanese Navy  
8 submarine; and

9       Whereas, The USS *Indianapolis* sank in 12 short minutes and  
10 descended to the bottom of the ocean; and

11       Whereas, Of the 1,195 crewmen aboard the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*,  
12 approximately 300 went down with the ship while the remaining 890  
13 were adrift at sea; and

14       Whereas, For four days, in the oil covered and salty open sea,  
15 with blistering sunny days and subzero nights, the sailors who were  
16 adrift at sea braved dehydration, exposure, hypothermia,  
17 hallucinations, saltwater poisoning, and shark attacks; and

18       Whereas, On Thursday, August 2, 1945, while on a routine  
19 patrol, a Navy patrol plane miraculously spotted the remaining  
20 survivors; and

21       Whereas, All air and surface units capable of rescue  
22 operations were dispatched to the scene at once; and

23       Whereas, Of the 890 men adrift at sea, only 316 survived; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
26 this legislative body commemorate the 75th anniversary of the  
27 sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*. We especially recognize the  
28 service and sacrifice of our brave Michiganders who served on board  
29 the USS *Indianapolis* during this fateful mission, selflessly

- 1 heeding the call by serving admirably in the United States Navy
- 2 during at time of war.