

Senate Resolution No. 36
Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Leno

Relative to Harvey Milk.

WHEREAS, Harvey Bernard Milk was born on May 22, 1930, in Woodmere, New York. He was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in a major city of the United States. He was assassinated in 1978 at San Francisco's City Hall by a political rival. Perhaps more than any other modern figure, Harvey Milk's life and political career embody the rise of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement in California, across the nation, and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk's career as a public servant began in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where he served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer. Harvey Milk later transferred to the San Diego Naval Station to serve as a diving instructor and in 1955, he was discharged from the United States Navy with the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk's legacy as a civil rights leader is still felt today. Harvey Milk was named one of TIME Magazine's most influential people of the 20th century. Many institutions and organizations are named for Harvey Milk, including the Harvey Milk Recreational Arts Center, the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, and the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk. The State of California has designated May 22 annually as "Harvey Milk Day," and Harvey Milk has been inducted into the California Hall of Fame; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk as this would be a fitting tribute to Harvey Milk's

support for equality, an ideal exemplified in the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Navy and to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 36 read and adopted by the Senate August 20, 2012.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate