

WHEREAS, Hundreds of men showed exceptional heroism and devotion to their shipmates during this tragic accident; the Secretary of the Navy awarded medals to 178 members of the crew on April 22, 1955; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to express its gratitude to the men of the USS Bennington for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 54th Anniversary of the USS Bennington Disaster and to pay the highest tribute to the valiant service displayed by all those aboard the carrier during its time of crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the families of those involved in the USS Bennington Disaster; to Joe Strohmeier, survivor and coordinator; and The Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON  
February 26, 2008

By order of the Senate,

*Syphilin R. Maltese*

*Steven M. Boggess*  
Steven M. Boggess, Secretary

