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1	CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE U.S.S.
2	UTAH
3	2024 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison
6	Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers
7 8	LONG TITLE
9	General Description:
10	This resolution recognizes the history of the U.S.S. Utah.
11	Highlighted Provisions:
12	This resolution:
13	 highlights the history of the attack on the U.S.S. Utah at Pearl Harbor on December
14	7, 1941;
15	 declares December 7 as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; and
16	
	• encourages municipalities in Utah to pass similar resolutions.
17	Special Clauses:
18 19	None
20	Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:
21	WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Navy attacked the U.S. Naval base at
22	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, leaving 2,403 Americans dead;
23	WHEREAS, the hulls of two battleships - the U.S.S. Arizona and the U.S.S. Utah -
24	remain in the waters of Pearl Harbor as legacies of that tragic day;
25	WHEREAS, the U.S.S. Arizona memorial has millions of visitors each year;
26	WHEREAS, few people visit the memorial honoring the 58 men who lost their lives on
27	the U.S.S. Utah;
28	WHEREAS, at 8:01 A.M. HST, the Japanese struck the U.S.S. Utah by an aerial
29	torpedo that slammed into the port side as crew raised the flag on the fantail;

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30	WHEREAS, a second, and possibly third torpedo struck the ship minutes later;
31	WHEREAS, by 8:05 A.M. HST, the ship was lost, and at 8:12 A.M. HST, the U.S.S.
32	Utah capsized after her mooring line snapped;
33	WHEREAS, as the ship was sinking, Chief Water Tender, Peter Tomich, instead of
34	escaping, ordered the crew to get out;
35	WHEREAS, Chief Tomich ignored his own evacuation order and moved from valve to
36	valve, setting the gauge and releasing steam to stabilize and secure the boilers;
37	WHEREAS, if Chief Tomich had not done that, the boilers would have ruptured and
38	exploded and turned the ship into a massive inferno from which no one would escape;
39	WHEREAS, Chief Tomich is among the 58 sailors believed to be entombed inside the
40	U.S.S. Utah;
41	WHEREAS, in 1943, the U.S. Navy commissioned a destroyer escort and named it the
42	U.S.S. Tomich in his honor;
43	WHEREAS, on January 4, 1944, while aboard the U.S.S. Tomich, Chief Tomich was
44	posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;
45	WHEREAS, Chief Tomich's Congressional Medal of Honor is the only unclaimed
46	Congressional Medal of Honor since the 1880s;
47	WHEREAS, a total of 30 officers and 431 men aboard the U.S.S. Utah survived the
48	attack;
49	WHEREAS, six officers and 52 enlisted men were lost due to being trapped on board
50	or cut down by strafing aircraft;
51	WHEREAS, Melvyn Armour Gandre, a native Utahn who enlisted in the Navy and
52	reported for duty on the U.S.S. Utah in May 1940, was lost aboard the U.S.S. Utah;
53	WHEREAS, after Gandre's death, the U.S.S. Utah's Commanding Officer wrote to
54	Gandre's wife, telling her "while knowing that his life was in great peril, he remained at his
55	post of duty until it was too late to save himself. Our country and our Navy will never forget
56	that glorious act. It is now the duty of all of us to make certain that he did not die in vain";
57	WHEREAS, for many survivors of the attack, victory was long and difficult. Survivor

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58	Bill Hughes recalled: "I was there when it started aboard the Utah and 3 years 8 months and 25
59	days later I was where it ended: in Tokyo Bay.";
60	WHEREAS, entombed within the wreck are the remains of 54 sailors and a baby named
61	Nancy Lynne Wagner;
62	WHEREAS, Nancy Lynne Wagner died two days after her premature birth;
63	WHEREAS, Albert Wagner, Nancy's father, had planned to bury his daughter at sea on
64	the next voyage;
65	WHEREAS, Albert survived the sinking, but his daughter's urn was lost;
66	WHEREAS, the sailors still entombed on the U.S.S. Utah "watch over" her;
67	WHEREAS, President Roosevelt called the attack on Pearl Harbor a "day that will live
68	in infamy";
69	WHEREAS, the infamy of the attack did not translate into a famous legacy for the
70	U.S.S. Utah and the 58 lives lost;
71	WHEREAS, little response from the home front and a lack of effort from the Navy led
72	the U.S.S. Utah into obscurity with stories untold and the title "The Forgotten Ship of Pearl
73	Harbor"; and
74	WHEREAS, now, 82 years after the attack, the time has come to "right the ship,"
75	forgive history, and reset the legacy and memory that will finally bring honor and respect to
76	those that served and died on the U.S.S. Utah once and for all, as well as the state for which she
77	was named:
78	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
79	Governor concurring therein, declare December 7 "Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" in the
80	state of Utah.
81	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor
82	concurring therein, that the celebration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day begin at 8:01 A.M.
83	local time, to commemorate the time the first torpedo hit the U.S.S. Utah.
84	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor
85	concurring therein, encourages every town, city, and county in the state of Utah to follow suit

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86	with similar resolutions.
87	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor
88	concurring therein, encourages Utahns and Americans to honor and pay tribute to the fallen

sailors by visiting the U.S.S. Utah Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii.