

RESOLUTION 2005 - 08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, OBJECTING TO THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE MAYPORT BASED AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, has been advised that the federal government's desire to decommission the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) (the "Kennedy"), one of 12 aircraft carriers in the U.S. naval fleet; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayport, Florida is one of only two deepwater ports on the eastern seaboard capable of receiving an aircraft carrier and the retirement of the Kennedy would concentrate all aircraft carriers on the east coast at the same port; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners finds it to be unwise, given the current threat of terrorism worldwide and the recent history of attacks upon American civilians and military forces, including the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attack upon American soil, to concentrate all of the Navy's Atlantic Fleet aircraft carrier resources in a single port, upon the Kennedy's decommission, which could put the U.S. fleet in grave danger should another attack against these consolidated resources succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, the naval battle group featuring the Kennedy has an overall economic impact in the Northeast Florida area over \$200 to \$300 million per year, the loss of which would be devastating to the economy of a city that has demonstrated its commitment to the U.S. Navy by investing tens of millions of local tax dollars in recent years to make infrastructure improvements for the benefit of Naval Station Mayport, to keep

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its efficiency and operational readiness at the highest levels;  
and

**WHEREAS**, Mayport Naval Station has continuously served as homeport for numerous combatant ships, including aircraft carriers, for the past 50 years and, most recently, the Kennedy which has resulted in the development of a mutually beneficial social and economic synergy among the Navy, the community and the many businesses and industries serving them both; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Kennedy completed an extended pier-side overhaul at a cost of over \$350 million, utilizing the services of local shipyards and other technical vendors, the quality of which received commendation by the Department of the Navy, enabling the ship to complete its scheduled deployment to Southwest Asia; and

**WHEREAS**, the location of the Kennedy in Mayport comports with the geographic dispersal of the Navy's 12 aircraft carriers, consistently mandated by the Navy as an imperative strategic maxim; and

**WHEREAS**, it is reported that the Department of Defense has determined that to save funds in the immediate term, it will recommend to the President the elimination of the Kennedy's scheduled shipyard overhaul which would extend its serviceable life to 2018, and instead decommission the ship in 2005, reducing the Navy's carrier complement to 11 and placing all east coast carriers in a single port, now therefore

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** this 19th day of January, 2005, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

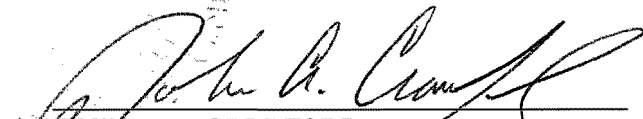
1. The Board strongly objects to the premature decommissioning of the Kennedy and any transfer of the associated Naval battle group, and further, the Board calls upon Representative Bean,

Senator Wise, Senator King, Governor Bush, Representative Crenshaw, Senator Martinez, Senator Nelson, and the President of the United States, to maintain the Kennedy in commission at its homeport of Mayport, Florida, until such time as the representatives, Governor, and President have provided facilities at Mayport Naval Station for the replacement of the Kennedy with the USS George Herbert Walker Bush, CVN (77), or another in the U.S. Navy.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
ANSLEY N. ACREE  
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:

  
JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney

  
MICHAEL S. MULLIN

z/amyers/res/uss-kennedy