

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Heslar Naval Armory and its staff for their many contributions to our nation and our state.

Banks

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Heslar Naval
2 Armory and its staff for their many contributions to our nation and our
3 state.

4 *Whereas, On the eastern bank of the White River on 30th*
5 *Street in Indianapolis sits the majestic building that houses*
6 *the Heslar Naval Armory, whose mission it is to deliver*
7 *strategic depth and operational capability to the Navy,*
8 *Marine Corps, and Joint Forces;*

9 *Whereas, A part of the Works Progress Administration,*
10 *construction began on the armory in 1936; but two years*
11 *later, the building was already in use even though*
12 *construction was not complete;*

13 *Whereas, Prior to its construction, the Navy reserves had*
14 *no central location to drill;*

15 *Whereas, The armory was authorized by the Ninth Naval*
16 *District and the city of Indianapolis due largely to the efforts*
17 *of Captain O. F. Heslar;*

18 *Whereas, From the time Captain Heslar was named as the*
19 *Area Commander of the Indiana reserves in 1922, he*
20 *petitioned to have a dedicated armory built to house the*
21 *Naval Reserve forces in the area;*

22 *Whereas, Originally named the Indianapolis Naval*
23 *Armory, it was built on this inland location because its*
24 *original purpose was to train sailors as radio operators*



1 *(signalmen) and radio repairmen (electronic technicians);*

2 *Whereas, The Heslar Naval Armory also served as a school*
3 *for cooks and bakers and quartered sailors in transit to new*
4 *duty stations for a short time;*

5 *Whereas, With the outbreak of World War II, the armory's*
6 *inland location became a perfect place to discuss secret*
7 *military plans and, for high ranking officials seeking to avoid*
8 *the constant surveillance on the coasts, to plan their Atlantic*
9 *and Pacific campaigns;*

10 *Whereas, The armory has been home to the Naval and*
11 *Marine Corps Reserves since its beginning, but an active*
12 *duty staff conducts duties during normal business hours;*

13 *Whereas, On December 12, 1964, the Indianapolis Naval*
14 *Armory was renamed the Heslar Naval Armory in honor of*
15 *its first and longest-serving commanding officer;*

16 *Whereas, The current Commanding Officer, Commander*
17 *Robert B. Szemborski, is the 26th Commanding Officer of the*
18 *Heslar Naval Armory, which is home to more than 450 U.S.*
19 *Navy reserve sailors from 10 units and more than 150*
20 *reserve Marines;*

21 *Whereas, The officers and staff of the Heslar Naval Armory*
22 *have given unselfishly their time, knowledge, and efforts in*
23 *defense of their nation and their state and to facilitate the*
24 *Naval Reserve and the Indiana Naval Forces; and*

25 *Whereas, Heslar Naval Armory is home to several artifacts*
26 *of Naval history, including a bell from the USS Indiana cast*
27 *in 1942 with the commissioning of that ship, a bell from the*
28 *USS Indianapolis cast in 1932 with the commissioning of that*
29 *ship and removed to conserve weight prior to her final*
30 *cruise, a damaged flag recovered from the USS Indianapolis*
31 *presented to the city of Indianapolis on February 2, 1960, by*
32 *the Indianapolis Council of the Navy League of the United*
33 *States, a flag recovered from the USS Fechteler, hung in the*
34 *wardroom, a quartermaster's logbook from the USS Indiana*
35 *in 1943, and the original blueprints for the USS Indiana:*
36 *Therefore,*



