



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** R2016-327  
**Type:** Resolution                      **Status:** Adopted  
**File created:** 5/18/2016              **In control:** City Council  
**Final action:** 6/22/2016

**Title:** Call for United States government to conduct search of Lake Michigan off Navy Pier to locate remains of airmen lost during World War II training exercises and install plaque on Navy Pier commemorating their sacrifice

**Sponsors:** Burke, Edward M., Solis, Daniel, Reboyras, Ariel, Cardenas, George A., Taliaferro, Chris, Villegas, Gilbert, Santiago, Milagros

**Indexes:** Committee on Finance, UNITED STATES GOVT.

**Attachments:** 1. R2016-327.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/22/2016	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass
6/21/2016	1	Committee on Finance	Recommended to Pass	Pass
5/18/2016	1	City Council	Referred	

### *Resolution*

WHEREAS, During World War II, the United States Navy established landing platforms near Navy Pier in Chicago to simulate the landing decks of aircraft carriers in order to train airmen; and

WHEREAS, The United States Navy accomplished the task by purchasing and converting old ferries which they named the USS Wolverine and USS Sable, because those animals were indigenous to the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, The training exercises were necessary for pilots to achieve the myriad of kills needed for combat; and

WHEREAS, Between the fall of 1941 and 1945, 17,280 pilots were became qualified to fly over the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, During the course of training exercises, an estimated 22 airmen were killed in crashes over Lake Michigan and 228 aircraft still lay at the bottom of the lake; and

WHEREAS, Despite military searches for survivors during the war, the United States government has never embarked on a massive search for these lost planes, some of which could still contain remains of lost airmen; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the United States government conduct an extensive search of Lake Michigan off Navy Pier and at other appropriate locations to locate the remains of lost airmen and to provide those

remains with a proper resting place befitting the ultimate sacrifice made by these pilots on behalf of their country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a plaque be installed on Navy Pier recognizing the ultimate sacrifice of those airmen lost in these World War II training exercises; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Raymond Mabus, Secretary of the United States Navy.