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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you consider naming the new CVN-79 Aircraft Carrier the "USS Arizona (CVN-79)."

The honorable name "USS Arizona" has been given to several significant vessels in the Navy's history, including ships that served in the Civil War and World War II. Arizonans are particularly proud of the USS Arizona (BB-39), a Pennsylvania Class Battleship, and her crew, which sank in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The Japanese Imperial Navy's pre-emptive attack by dropping bombs on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base was an atrocity that resounded throughout the United States. This attack ultimately caused 1,177 casualties, significant irreparable damage to this U.S. Naval Base, and the sinking of the USS Arizona (BB-39).

As Pearl Harbor Day approaches, we must continue to remember and honor our veterans who fought and lost their lives in the attack that propelled our country into World War II. I believe that revitalizing the honorable name "USS Arizona" will not only honor these veterans, but it will also symbolize the fighting spirit of our great country.

Thank you for your consideration. If there is anything that I can provide to help with your decision, please do not hesitate to contact me or John Wijtenburg on my staff at (202) 225-2190.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Mitchell
Member of Congress