

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 407

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGFER-2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968.

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Whereas on January 28, 2004, Commander Lloyd “Pete” Bucher, United States Navy (retired), died and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California;

Whereas Lloyd Bucher was appointed as a commissioned officer in the Navy in June 1953 and in May 1967 was assigned command of the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER-2), an

auxiliary light cargo ship designated as an environmental research vessel;

Whereas the U.S.S. Pueblo, while under the command of Commander Bucher and in international waters conducting an intelligence mission off the coast of North Korea, was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser on January 23, 1968;

Whereas the U.S.S. Pueblo was armed only with two .50-caliber machine guns, and the attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Commander Bucher, his crew, and the U.S.S. Pueblo;

Whereas Commander Bucher and his crew were starved and tortured for 11 months, and were repeatedly beaten, burned on steam radiators, and otherwise brutally treated by their North Korean captors;

Whereas Commander Bucher bore the brunt of the wrath of the North Koreans;

Whereas crewman James Kell said, "We were all beaten, we all were tortured. But [Commander Bucher] had it double, triple, quadruple what we got.";

Whereas crewman Stu Russell said, "[Commander Bucher] was a giant. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he got the strength and courage to go through what he did.";

Whereas on December 23, 1968, the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo was released, some of whom were crippled or nearly blind because of the brutality and malnourishment they endured;

Whereas Commander Bucher retired from the Navy in 1973; and

Whereas Commander Bucher is survived by his wife, Rose, their two sons, and several grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) salutes the life and courage of the late Com-
4 mander Lloyd “Pete” Bucher, United States Navy
5 (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. Pueblo
6 (AGER-2) at the time of its capture by North
7 Korea on January 23, 1968, and who passed away
8 on January 28, 2004;

9 (2) praises Commander Bucher for his exem-
10 plary bravery and sacrifice, which were an inspira-
11 tion to his crew and the United States, while he and
12 his crew were held in captivity for 11 months in
13 North Korea;

14 (3) praises the bravery of the crew of the
15 U.S.S. Pueblo; and

16 (4) expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the fam-
17 ily and friends of Commander Bucher.

Passed the House of Representatives September 13,
2004.

Attest:

Clerk.