Resolution urging the naming of a United States Navy Ship in honor of Joseph Rosenthal, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the raising of the American Flag at Iwo Jima captured the sacrifice of an entire generation of Americans.

WHEREAS, This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, which we fought from February 19 to March 26, 1945; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Joseph Rosenthal served as a warrant officer in the Merchant marines and as a photographer for the Associated Press; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal shared courage under fire with Army soldiers and Marines flying on a Navy dive-bombing mission, sailing aboard many U.S. Navy ships, making four amphibious landings, and was atop Mt. Suribachi, on February 23, 1945, during the fierce battle for Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, The raising of "Old Glory" on Mt. Suribachi marked victory of the Battle of Iwo Jima and promised ultimate victory in the Pacific theater and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The photo memorializes the nearly 7,000 Americans who died and the some 21,000 who were wounded in the Battle of Iwo Jima, the only Pacific battle in which U.S. casualties were greater than Japanese casualties, though 21,000 Japanese died and only some 1,200 survived; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal's dramatic photograph has become among the most recognized and reproduced images in history; and

WHEREAS, The photo of six U.S. Marines working together demonstrates the spirit of teamwork that makes America exceptional; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal's photograph has endured for more than seven decades as a symbol of America's unity and enduring pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS, In the Spring of 1945, Mr. Rosenthal was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the first and only time the prize was awarded to a photo made in the same year; and

WHEREAS, The flag itself, tattered after a month's exposure to Suribachi's constant Pacific winds, was raised over the U.S. Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosenthal's photograph is a lasting memorial to those who faced the ultimate sacrifice in defending America; and

WHEREAS, Many decades later Mr. Rosenthal's photograph remains an enduring symbol of the American experience; and

WHEREAS, The Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, formerly the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, launched a petition to encourage the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a ship for Joe Rosenthal; and

WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of the Navy has sole authority to name Navy vessels; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco do hereby endorse and support the effort of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association to encourage the United States Secretary of the Navy to name a Navy ship in honor of Joseph John Rosenthal.
Resolution urging the naming of a United States Navy Ship in honor of Joseph Rosenthal, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the raising of the American Flag at Iwo Jima captured the sacrifice of an entire generation of Americans.

September 19, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 8 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Sheehy and Yee
Excused: 3 - Farrell, Safai and Tang

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/19/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved