

Senate Resolution 1489

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Rogers of the 21st, Williams of the 19th, Carter of the 1st, Mullis of the 53rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Navy to rescind its decision to name a ship after the late
2 Representative John Murtha; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States Navy has announced it will be naming its newest San
4 Antonio-class amphibious transport-dock LPD 26 for the late Representative John Murtha;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, five years ago, Representative Murtha accused United States Marines of
7 murdering Iraqi civilians "in cold blood"; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Murtha, the powerful Democratic Chairman of the House
9 Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, was an outspoken and influential critic of the Iraq
10 war; and

11 WHEREAS, San Antonio-class ships support Marines; can carry roughly 700 troops, their
12 equipment, and vehicles; and are usually named after cities; and

13 WHEREAS, not only will naming this naval ship after Representative Murtha break from
14 tradition, it will serve as a slap in the face to service men and women who fight to protect this
15 nation's freedom and liberty; and

16 WHEREAS, although Representative Murtha voted to authorize President George W. Bush
17 to use military force in Iraq in 2002, he called for the immediate withdrawal of United States
18 troops from Iraq in November, 2005; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2005, Representative Murtha accused eight Marines of murdering Iraqi
20 civilians in Haditha after a Marine died and two were wounded in a roadside bomb; and

21 WHEREAS, since his damaging accusations, charges against six of the Marines have been
22 dropped, one Marine was acquitted, and one Marine will stand military trial in September on
23 reduced charges of voluntary manslaughter; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Murtha unfairly handed down a guilty verdict for these eight
25 Marines before an investigation was concluded, tarnishing these distinguished members of
26 the military's reputation and fueling enemy retaliation efforts during a time of war.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 urge the United States Navy to rescind its decision to name a ship after the late representative
29 John Murtha.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the Georgia congressional
32 delegation.