

Senate Resolution 366

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and Carter of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Sheila M. McNeill, past national president of the Navy
2 League of the United States and current president of The Camden Partnership; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sheila M. McNeill has been an unequalled community leader in Camden
5 County, Georgia, for more than 27 years as both the proprietor of Sheila's Hallmark and as
6 a member and past president of the Camden County Chamber of Commerce; and

7 WHEREAS, she has served the State of Georgia with distinction as a member of the Georgia
8 Military Affairs Coordinating Committee since its founding in 1994 and was the driving
9 force and national leader behind Camden County community's successful efforts to ensure
10 that the nation retrofitted four older OHIO Class TRIDENT Submarines from ballistic
11 missile to guided missile capable platforms; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. McNeill served as the Chairperson of the *USS GEORGIA* Return to
13 Service Committee in 2008, ensuring that the State of Georgia was a proud partner with the
14 Navy in bringing home to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, in grand Georgia style, our
15 namesake submarine and state of the art transformational platform, the *USS GEORGIA*; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2004, Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins presented her with the
17 Armed Forces Spirit of Hope Award in honor of her 40 years of service with the Navy
18 League and her unflagging support of the sea services; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Obama administration proposed slashing \$300 million from the
20 United States Coast Guard's budget, which meant decommissioning five of the 12 Maritime
21 Safety and Security Teams which were commissioned as a direct result of the tragic events
22 of September 11th, 2001, including Team 91108 in St. Marys, Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, the decommissioning of Team 91108 in St. Marys, Georgia, would have
24 resulted in a loss of over \$8 million to the local southeast Georgia economy; and

25 WHEREAS, with her tenacity, clear vision, and insightful leadership Mrs. McNeill rallied
26 the local community and Navy Leaguers in communities across the nation in an effort to save
27 the Maritime Safety and Security Teams and restore full funding for the United States Coast
28 Guard; and

29 WHEREAS, she volunteered hundreds of hours of her time and made more than a dozen trips
30 to Washington D.C., Virginia, and California to see Navy League leadership, community
31 leaders in other affected coastal communities, and the 194 congressional offices that
32 represented the membership responsible for oversight of the United States Coast Guard; and

33 WHEREAS, the release of the Obama administration's FY-2012 budget included full
34 restoration of funding for the United States Coast Guard, including the Maritime Safety and
35 Security Team in St. Marys, Georgia; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
37 this distinguished American be appropriately recognized.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 commend Mrs. Sheila M. McNeill for more than 47 years of service to her country and
40 recognize her tireless work to support the men, women, and families of our nation's sea
41 services.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Sheila M. McNeill.