

Senate Resolution 507

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the 35th anniversary of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay was established in a developmental status
4 on July 1, 1978, occupying over 16,000 acres in Camden County, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, with the arrival of the submarine tender USS *Simon Lake* on July 2, 1979, and
6 the ballistic missile submarine USS *James Monroe* on July 6, 1979, Naval Submarine Base
7 Kings Bay hosted its first of hundreds of operational refits in preparation for a nuclear
8 strategic deterrent patrol by one of the United States Navy's 41 for Freedom Ballistic Missile
9 submarines; and

10 WHEREAS, in May, 1979, the United States Navy selected Kings Bay as its preferred East
11 Coast site for the new Ohio class Trident submarines, and on October 23, 1980, the Secretary
12 of the Navy announced that Kings Bay would be the future homeport for the new Trident
13 submarines following congressional approval; and

14 WHEREAS, that decision began the largest peacetime construction program ever undertaken
15 by the United States Navy, taking over nine years to complete at a cost of over \$1.3 billion,
16 which included the construction of three major tenant commands: Trident Training Facility,
17 Trident Refit Facility, and Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic; and

18 WHEREAS, on January 15, 1989, the first Trident submarine, the USS *Tennessee*, arrived
19 at Kings Bay, and in late March, 1990, the submarine made its first deterrent patrol with the
20 Trident II (D-5) missile system; and

21 WHEREAS, the Trident submarines USS *Alaska*, USS *Tennessee*, USS *West Virginia*, USS
22 *Maryland*, USS *Rhode Island*, USS *Wyoming*, USS *Florida*, and USS *Georgia* are all
23 homeported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay; and

24 WHEREAS, the Trident submarine is the most survivable leg of the nation's strategic nuclear
25 triad; and

26 WHEREAS, members of the United States Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Kings Bay
27 have steadfastly performed their mission as guardians of the nation's most critical weapon
28 system and its various components onboard Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay; and

29 WHEREAS, as a result of the tragic events of 9/11, the United States Coast Guard has been
30 enlisted to provide safety, security, and law enforcement capabilities in the form of the
31 Maritime Force Protection Unit Kings Bay, who, with the crews of the USCGC *Sea Dragon*,
32 USCGC *Sea Dog*, and other vessels and other Coast Guard and civilian personnel, have and
33 continue to ensure safe and unfettered ingress and egress of the nation's Strategic Nuclear
34 Submarine Force; and

35 WHEREAS, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay is home to the pride of the people of Georgia,
36 the USS *Georgia* and her Blue and Gold Crews; and

37 WHEREAS, the citizens of Georgia are honored and privileged to salute and pay tribute to
38 Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay on the occasion of its 35th anniversary on July 1, 2013.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 join in recognizing, honoring, and saluting the men and women who for the past 35 years
41 have devoted nearly 13,000 days of dedicated service ensuring that the nation's critical
42 nuclear deterrent mission has been and continues to be carried out 24 hours a day, 365 days
43 a year and the citizens and elected leadership of the communities of Kingsland, St. Marys,
44 Woodbine, and all of Camden County who have embraced and supported this important
45 national defense installation and those who have served therein.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
47 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Chief of Naval Operations, the
48 Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington,
49 D.C., and the Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Camden County,
50 Georgia.