

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

We respectfully request that the U.S. Navy hold the commissioning ceremony for the USS SOMERSET (LPD 25) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

As we understand it, the commissioning ceremony is tentatively projected to take place early in 2014, and the Navy has already cleared Philadelphia as a potential site.

As you know, the USS SOMERSET is named in honor of the courageous passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93, whose quick and determined actions prevented terrorist hijackers from reaching their intended target – the United States Capitol Building – on September 11, 2001. Through their heroism, the passengers aboard Flight 93 were able to overtake the hijackers and selflessly deter the flight into an empty field near Shanksville in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, saving countless lives. As a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of the Flight 93 passengers and crew, steel from the crash site was melted down and cast into the USS Somerset's bow stem. It would be a great gesture to those heroes who gave their lives that the commissioning ceremony be held in the Commonwealth in which they made their ultimate sacrifice.

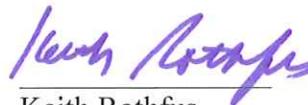
The Port of Philadelphia is the closest port to Somerset County, which would serve as a convenient location for families and friends of those fallen to have the opportunity to attend the tribute in Pennsylvania. We understand that the prospect of this location has received broad support from business leaders, elected officials, and members of the local community.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this request. If you have any questions on this matter please contact Sean Joyce with Congressman Shuster at (202) 225-2431, or Brian Ryckman with Congressman Rothfus at (202) 225-2065.

Sincerely,



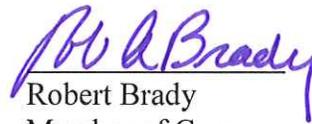
Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



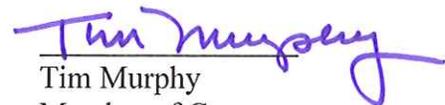
Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



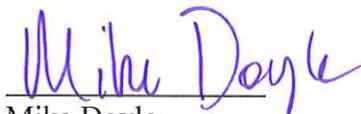
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



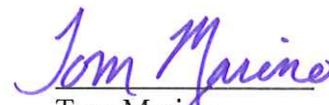
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Joe Pitts
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress



Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

CDW Dent

Charlie Dent
Member of Congress

Scott Perry

Scott Perry
Member of Congress