

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2018

The Honorable Richard Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, we strongly encourage you to name a U.S. Navy ship in honor of the late U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

There are multiple reasons why we believe this would be a most appropriate and deserved honor. Senator Helms enlisted in the U.S. Navy shortly after the attacks at Pearl Harbor, and throughout his entire career he was a vocal and strong supporter of our Armed Forces and our veterans.

Following his newspaper, banking, radio and TV careers, he was elected to serve in the U.S. Senate where he was a dominant force for liberty and free enterprise. Along with President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Senator Helms was arguably one of the most influential forces on the world stage during his time office. He worked tirelessly to defeat Communism and tyranny around the world. Every head of state knew Senator Jesse Helms and even more importantly, they knew the values and principles for which he stood. Because friend and foe alike knew his character and dedication, he was a consequential force for good just by reputation.

As a champion for America and her values, Senator Helms was a national figure with a tremendous following during his 30 years in office. The longest serving state-wide elected Republican in North Carolina history, he is fondly remembered by many for his unwavering stand on issues, his commitment to serving his constituents, and his steadfast devotion to, as he would say, "the principles that made America great."

Senator Helms was not only highly respected by his Republican colleagues but, many of his Democrat colleagues held him in the highest regard as well. Enclosed are some of the tributes of Senate Democrats recorded in the Congressional Record at the time of his retirement. These help to further emphasize and reinforce what a consequential and beloved man of national prominence he was.

Senator Helms passed on July 4th, joining two prominent Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, who passed on this same day – quite fitting for a man who was a student of both. During his last few years in office, one gentleman wrote Senator Helms a letter

stating that he had no doubt he would have been the first to sign the Declaration of Independence had he lived during that time. Nor do we have any doubt, and the naming of a Navy ship in his honor would be a lasting and perfect way to recognize his contributions to America and mankind.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



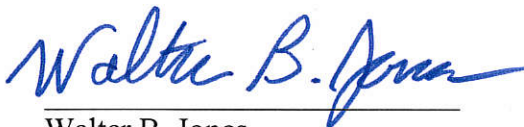
George Holding
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



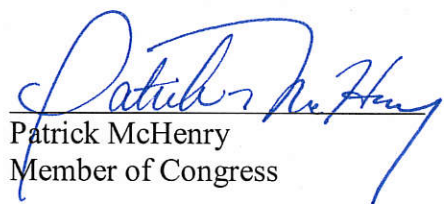
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress




Ted Budd
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Patrick McHenry
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Robert Pittenger
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Virginia Foxx
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