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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To express the sense of Congress regarding the naming of a naval vessel
for Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding the naming of
a naval vessel for Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rear Admiral Alene
5 Duerk Ship Renaming Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NAMING OF**
2 **NAVAL VESSEL FOR REAR ADMIRAL ALENE**
3 **DUERK.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a vessel
6 of the United States Navy the “U.S.S. Rear Admiral
7 Alene Duerk” in honor of Rear Admiral Alene Duerk, for
8 the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

9 (b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor
10 described in this subsection are the actions of Alene
11 Duerk, as a member of the United States Navy, as follows:

12 (1) Following Rear Admiral Duerk’s birth in
13 Defiance, Ohio and graduation from Toledo Hospital
14 School of Nursing, she received a commission on
15 January 23, 1943, and was appointed as an ensign
16 in the Nurse Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

17 (2) During World War II, she was assigned as
18 a Ward Nurse at the Naval Medical Center Ports-
19 mouth, Portsmouth, Virginia, and at the Naval Hos-
20 pital, Bethesda Maryland where she cared for
21 wounded members of the United States Armed
22 Forces. In 1945, she was stationed on the USS Be-
23 nevolence in the Pacific Theater (AH-13) where she
24 treated casualties from Third Fleet operations until
25 the end of the war.

1 (3) After the war, she progressed in rank and
2 served in positions of increasing responsibility in
3 both the Navy Reserves and Active Duty including
4 posts in Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois,
5 the Philippines, Japan, California, and Washington,
6 D.C. Her dedication and inspirational service cul-
7 minated with her historic selection for the rank of
8 Rear Admiral on April 16, 1972, as the first woman
9 to become a flag officer.

10 (4) Rear Admiral Duerk was awarded the
11 Naval Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal,
12 the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze
13 Star, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Oc-
14 cupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp, and the Na-
15 tional Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star.