

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-01

SUBJECT: Investigate Israeli Attack on USS Liberty

SOURCE: TN, AK, MO, KY, VA, OH, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA,

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1967, the USS Liberty (AGTR-5), while operating in international waters in the Eastern Mediterranean, was the target of an unprovoked attack by Israeli war planes and torpedo boats, and

WHEREAS, the attack lasted more than two hours, killing 34 crew members and wounding another 173 American servicemen on board, and

WHEREAS, the attack caused extensive damage to the ship with over 861 holes from rockets, cannons, machine guns, napalm and a forty-foot hole in the ship's side from a torpedo blast, and

WHEREAS, during attempts by the courageous crew to save the wounded and the ship, Israeli forces fired machine guns at firefighters, stretcher bearers and life rafts, and

WHEREAS, it would appear the intent of this attack was to sink the USS Liberty with no survivors, and

WHEREAS, later the crew was threatened with court martial and imprisonment if they ever spoke of the attack; and

WHEREAS, fifty-two years later, this attack remains the only serious naval incident that has never been thoroughly investigated by Congress; to this day no surviving crewmembers have been permitted to officially and publicly testify about the attack, and

WHEREAS, the 34 crewmembers killed in action by this attack have never been honored by their country in any meaningful way, and

WHEREAS, the crewmembers of the USS Liberty and their families should have closure to this tragic attack and aftermath; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS call upon Congress to immediately initiate a full, in-depth, honest and public investigation into the attack of the USS Liberty by the armed forces of Israel on June 8, 1967, in order to determine the truth behind the attack, and to bring closure to the families and crew.

Committee Recommendations:

Armed Services and Military Liaison Committee: Adopt

Floor Action: ADOPTED