

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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April 20, 2012

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Mabus:

I write to urge the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk.

As you know, Harvey Milk was a politician and civil rights activist. His career as a public servant began in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where he served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer. He later transferred to Naval Station, San Diego to serve as a diving instructor. In 1955, he was discharged from the Navy at the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

In 2009, Mr. Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The State of California has designated May 22 annually as "Harvey Milk Day," and he has been inducted into the California Hall of Fame. A number of additional initiatives are underway to commemorate Mr. Milk's legacy, including a current campaign by the GLBT Historic Task Force of San Diego County to name a Navy vessel in Mr. Milk's honor.

I wholeheartedly agree with these efforts, and urge the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk. This action would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Milk's support for equality, an ideal exemplified in the military's recent repeal of its former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/te
2611386

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April 20, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write to urge that you will encourage the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk.

As you know, Harvey Milk was a politician and civil rights activist. His career as a public servant began in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where he served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer. He later transferred to Naval Station, San Diego to serve as a diving instructor. In 1955, he was discharged from the Navy at the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

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