



HR0396

LRB098 12239 GRL 46376 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives seek to honor all veterans and active duty
4 military personnel, especially those who have achieved a high
5 level of distinction and excellence in their service to our
6 country; and

7 WHEREAS, Commander Luis Alva of the United States Navy will
8 become the Commanding Officer of the USS Vandegrift (FFG-48) on
9 May 31, 2013; and

10 WHEREAS, Commander Alva had previously served as the
11 Executive Officer of the USS Reuben James (FFG-57); and

12 WHEREAS, Commander Alva's naval career began in July of
13 1991, when he was accepted into the United States Naval Academy
14 Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island; after graduating,
15 he was accepted into the United States Naval Academy; and

16 WHEREAS, Commander Alva graduated from the United States
17 Naval Academy in 1996, receiving a bachelor's degree in
18 political science, and was commissioned as a naval officer; and

19 WHEREAS, Commander Alva's first tour of duty was aboard the
20 USS Fahrion (FFG-22), which included a goodwill and recruiting

1 tour of the Great Lakes, visiting cities in both the United
2 States and Canada; and

3 WHEREAS, Commander Alva served aboard the USS Cape St.
4 George (CG-71) from 1998 to 2000, completing deployments
5 throughout the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf with the USS
6 Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group; and

7 WHEREAS, Commander Alva served as the weapons and combat
8 systems officer on the USS San Jacinto (CG-56) from 2003 to
9 2005; while aboard the San Jacinto, he participated in
10 Operation Iraqi Freedom during a Mediterranean and Red Sea
11 deployment and in the Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2004
12 deployment; and

13 WHEREAS, Commander Alva's shore tours include service as an
14 instructor at the Tactical Training Group - Atlantic in Dam
15 Neck, Virginia and as the Operations Branch Chief for Ballistic
16 Missile Defense (J3 Staff) at the United States Strategic
17 Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; and

18 WHEREAS, Commander Alva holds a master's degree in national
19 security affairs from the United States Navy Postgraduate
20 School; he also received his Joint Professional Military
21 Education (Phase 1) from the United States Naval War College;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Commander Alva has been awarded the Defense
2 Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (3 Gold
3 Stars), and the Naval Achievement Medal, along with numerous
4 other unit and service awards; and

5 WHEREAS, Commander Alva is a native of Chicago and the son
6 of Investigator Joseph L. Alva, Cook County Sheriff's Office
7 Fugitive Unit (Retired), and Deputy Sheriff Irene Alva, Cook
8 County Sheriff's Office (Retired); therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate United States Navy Commander Luis Alva on his
12 new command as Captain of the USS Vandegrift, honors his high
13 level of distinction throughout his naval career, and gives our
14 best wishes for his continued success as he leads the officers
15 and sailors of this proud warship as it protects our nation;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Commander Luis Alva as a symbol of our esteem and
19 respect.