

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1239

Honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer
in the field of marine conservation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPP) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer,
researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation.

Whereas Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born on June 11, 1910,
in Saint-Andre-de-Cubzac, France, to Daniel and Eliza-
beth Cousteau;

Whereas Jacques Cousteau in 1930, after having made his
preparatory studies at the College Stanislas in Paris, en-
tered the Naval Academy in Brest and became an officer
gunner;

Whereas after serving in World War II for the French Army,
he was decorated with the Legion of Honor, France's
highest honor;

Whereas in 1950, Jacques Cousteau founded the French
Oceanographical Campaigns (COF), and he leased a ship

called Calypso and equipped her as a mobile laboratory for field research and as a support base for diving and filming where he traversed the most interesting seas of the planet as well as big and small rivers;

Whereas from 1952 to 1953, Jacques Cousteau took the Calypso to the Red Sea and shot the first color footage ever taken at a depth of 150 feet, for a documentary titled “The Silent World”;

Whereas “The Silent World” was made using skin-diving gear Cousteau invented with engineer Emile Gagnan in 1943, freeing divers from heavy helmets and allowing them to be free and weightless as if in space;

Whereas in 1956, “The Silent World” won the top award at the Cannes Film Festival and the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in the United States;

Whereas in 1973, Jacques Cousteau, with his two sons Jean Michele and Philippe and Frederick Hyman, created the Cousteau Society for the Protection of Ocean Life, today boasting a membership of over 360,000 people;

Whereas in 1977, Jacques Cousteau and Peter Scott were awarded the United Nations International Environment prize;

Whereas in 1977, the “Cousteau Odyssey” series premiered on PBS and 7 years later, the “Cousteau Amazon” series premiered on television;

Whereas in 1985, Jacques Cousteau received the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas throughout all of his voyages, Jacques Cousteau produced over 120 films and authored or contributed to roughly 50 books; and

Whereas Jacques Cousteau passed away in Paris on June 25, 1997, after spending a lifetime of 87 years inventing, exploring, and storytelling: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
- 2 the life, achievements, and distinguished career of Jacques
- 3 Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of
- 4 marine conservation.

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