

# State of Maine

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Six

## JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO HONOR THE GIFT OF 1,000 ACRES KNOWN AS BRUNSWICK COMMONS BESTOWED IN 1719 BY THE PEJEPSCOT PROPRIETORS TO THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK FOREVER AND RETURN IT TO THE TOWN AT NO COST

**WE**, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-second Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the Second Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the Honorable Gordon R. England, the Secretary of the Navy, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, nearly 300 years ago, in 1719, the Pejepscot Proprietors donated 1,000 acres of land in the Township of Brunswick to be laid out as a "general perpetual commonage to ye town of Brunswick forever"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brunswick accepted the gift in 1774 and laid out the 1,000 acres that would come to be known as Brunswick Commons. In 1783 a deed was conveyed to the town selectmen, and the land became property of the town forever; and

**WHEREAS**, an 1816 survey was recommended by the Town Commons committee as the correct survey of the land, and in 1891 granite monuments were placed to mark the boundaries of the deeded land; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government took the majority of Brunswick Commons to build the Brunswick Naval Air Station, which served this nation well during World War II. Five of the original granite markers of the Brunswick Commons are within the boundary of the current base; and

**WHEREAS**, the base was deactivated after World War II in 1946 and recommissioned in 1951 and has been active since that date, providing support to the United States military as a vital part of America's defense system; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick Naval Air Station was targeted for decommissioning in the latest round of federal base closings, with the direction that the base be sold to the highest bidder instead of returning the land to its original use as described by deed; and

**WHEREAS**, the original deed clearly meant for this land to be for the common good of the Town of Brunswick and, while the subsequent use of the land for Brunswick Naval Air Station was important for our national security, the Town of Brunswick and the people of Maine feel strongly that, since the Federal Government no longer has need of this land, it should be returned to its original source; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brunswick declared in 1968 the full 1,000 acres of the Brunswick Commons to be an Historic Landmark, and the Town of Brunswick and the people of the State of Maine seek to make the original Brunswick Commons whole again, at no cost to the Town of Brunswick; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, respectfully urge and request that Secretary England do all in his power to see that the land deeded to the people of Brunswick be returned to the people of Brunswick at no cost, now that the Federal Government no longer wants this historical tract of land; and be it further

**RESOLVED**: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Gordon R. England, the Secretary of the Navy, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

**Cosponsored By:**

President Beth G. Edmonds  
of Cumberland  
Rep. Herbert Adams  
of Portland  
Rep. James D. Annis  
of Dover-Foxcroft  
Rep. Walter E. Ash, Jr.  
of Belfast  
Rep. Susan M. Austin  
of Gray  
Rep. Robert A. Berube  
of Lisbon  
Rep. George R. Bishop, Jr.  
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Rep. Richard B. Brown  
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of Windham  
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Rep. Michael Edward Dunn  
of Bangor  
Rep. Charles D. Fisher  
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Rep. Stacey Allen Fitts  
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Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
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Rep. Earle L. McCormick  
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Rep. Terrence P. McKenney  
of Cumberland  
Rep. Janet T. Mills  
of Farmington  
Rep. Stanley A. Moody  
of Manchester  
Rep. Gary W. Moore  
of Standish  
Rep. Joan M. Nass  
of Acton  
Rep. John L. Patrick  
of Rumford  
Rep. Leila J. Percy  
of Phippsburg  
Rep. Raymond G. Pineau  
of Jay  
Rep. John F. Piotti  
of Unity  
Rep. Gary E. Plummer  
of Windham  
Rep. Christopher Rector  
of Thomaston  
Rep. David E. Richardson  
of Carmel  
Rep. Earl E. Richardson  
of Greenville  
Speaker John Richardson  
of Brunswick  
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson  
of Skowhegan

Rep. Wesley E. Richardson  
of Warren  
Rep. Peter L. Rines  
of Wiscasset  
Rep. H. Stedman Seavey, Jr.  
of Kennebunkport  
Rep. Roger L. Sherman  
of Hodgdon  
Rep. Nancy E. Smith  
of Monmouth  
Rep. Richard M. Sykes  
of Harrison  
Rep. Joshua A. Tardy  
of Newport  
Rep. Douglas A. Thomas  
of Ripley  
Rep. A. David Trahan  
of Waldoboro  
Rep. Joanne T. Twomey  
of Biddeford  
Rep. Michael A. Vaughan  
of Durham  
Rep. Thomas R. Watson  
of Bath  
Rep. Walter A. Wheeler, Sr.  
of Kittery  
Sen. Philip L. Bartlett II  
of Cumberland  
Sen. Jonathan T. E. Courtney  
of York  
Sen. Scott W. Cowger  
of Kennebec  
Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III  
of Sagadahoc  
Sen. Ethan Strimling  
of Cumberland

House of Representatives  
Read and Adopted  
April 11, 2006  
Sent up for Concurrence  
Ordered Sent Forthwith

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk of the House

In Senate Chamber  
Under Suspension of the Rules  
Read and Adopted  
April 11, 2006  
In Concurrence

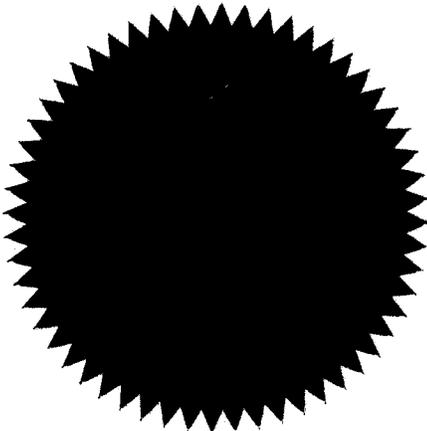
*Joy J. O'Brien*  
JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

H.P. 1500

ATTEST: *John Richardson*  
JOHN RICHARDSON  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sponsored By: *Stan Gerzofsky*  
Rep. Stan Gerzofsky  
of Brunswick

ATTEST: *Beth Edmonds*  
BETH EDMONDS  
President of the Senate



In Testimony Whereof, I have  
caused the seal of the State to be hereunto  
affixed. GIVEN under my hand at Augusta,  
this thirteenth day of April, in the year two  
thousand and six

*Matthew Dunlap*  
MATTHEW DUNLAP  
Secretary of State