

State of Maine



**WHEREAS**, the nuclear fast attack submarine USS Thresher (SSN 593) was designed and built at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; launched in July 1960 and commissioned in August 1961; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thresher was the first in a brand new class of submarine, created as a weapon of deterrence at the height of the Cold War and considered the most advanced naval vessel of its day; and

**WHEREAS**, on 10 April 1963 the Thresher became the first nuclear submarine to be lost at sea when it sank during deep-diving tests more than 200 miles off the New England coast, taking with her 129 brave U.S. Navy sailors and civilian workers; and

**WHEREAS**, thirteen of the men who died aboard the Thresher were employees of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard; and three of the Navy officers lost were stationed at the Shipyard; and several of the Navy crewmen were residents of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts; and all left behind grieving families, friends, neighbors and colleagues; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of the Thresher remains to this day the worst submarine disaster the world has ever known, and directly resulted in the Navy's creation of SUBSAFE, a safety program that has ensured no submarine passing\* thru this process has ever suffered a similar fate; and

**WHEREAS**, the town of Kittery, birthplace and final home port of the Thresher, is dedicating a 129-foot flagpole in Memorial Circle on 7 April 2013 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this terrible tragedy and to honor the 129 Cold War casualties lost that day, men of genius and adventure who represented the finest qualities of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Maine and its citizens, and the entire United States of America and her citizens, are greatly indebted to the sacrifice of these brave pioneers.


**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE**, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize April 10, 2013 as the

## **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF USS THRESHER**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused  
the Great Seal of the State to be  
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my  
hand at Augusta this Twentieth  
day of March Two-Thousand Thirteen

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

  
Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY