

ED CASE  
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII

2210 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: 202-225-2726  
FAX: 202-225-0688

1003 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1100  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
TELEPHONE: 808-650-6688  
FAX: 808-533-0133

WEBSITE: [CASE.HOUSE.GOV](http://CASE.HOUSE.GOV)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

**Testimony of Congressman Ed Case in Support of S.R. 32 – Expressing Support For The Naming Of A United States Navy Surface Combatant Ship After Fireman Second Class And Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Telesforo Trinidad**

**March 29, 2022**

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair, Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thank you for holding this hearing today on a resolution that would honor the memory and the extraordinary heroism of Telesforo Trinidad.

As I and several of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives stated in a letter last May to the Secretary of the Navy:

“We strongly support naming a Navy Surface Combatant after a Filipino sailor who received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1915 – Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad.”

Trinidad earned the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism in the line of duty during boiler explosions onboard the USS San Diego (ACR-6) while the ship was underway in the Gulf of California on January 21, 1915. Trinidad brought two crewmembers to safety in spite of his own physical injuries from the explosion. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in accordance with General Order Number 142 signed by the Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on April 1, 1915.

The Medal of Honor, which was awarded during peacetime, highlights the importance of service and sacrifice for shipmates and country not only during a time of war but during day-to-day operations. After 106 years, Trinidad still holds the distinction of being the only Asian American and only Filipino American in the U.S. Navy to receive a Medal of Honor.

The naming of a ship after Trinidad is a resolute symbol of Navy leadership and commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion during this time of national racial tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It also marks the 76th anniversary of the U.S. establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of the Philippines and the 71st anniversary of the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

(more)

(2)

This proposed resolution fully aligns with and supports our request, and is especially appropriate for the state which saw the first immigration from the Philippines to our country and today with the highest percentage of Filipino Americans in our country.

Equally important, it will honor the tens of thousands of Filipinos who have served faithfully and loyally in the U.S. Navy since 1901.

The USS Telesforo Trinidad will be the first ship to be named after an American national of Filipino descent and will serve as a testament to the longstanding military and political alliance that has continued uninterrupted between the Philippines and the United States for at least a century and a quarter.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of my testimony in support of SR 32.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Case". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Ed Case  
Hawai'i-First District

###