

TRIO Media Group

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Marine Corps Identity Bill Smashes House Record, Wins Key Support from Mass. Sen. Brown *House Vote Expected May 4*

Washington D.C. – April 30, 2010 – The Marine Corps Identity Bill has received more co-sponsors than any piece of legislation in the history of the House of Representatives. On April 28, the Senate version of the bill also picked up a key co-sponsor—Massachusetts Sen. **Scott Brown**.

The bills, [HR 24](#) and S. 504, introduced by North Carolina Rep. **Walter Jones** and Kansas Sen. **Pat Roberts**, propose to change the name of the Department of the Navy to the “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.”

HR 24 has been scheduled for a House floor vote on May 4. If passed, which it's expected to, the Senate would then have to vote on it.

“The Marine Corps Identity Bill does not ask for a separate department,” said Rep. Jones. “It only seeks to give the Marine Corps equal recognition with the Navy. I’m proud to be part of this worthy cause that is clearly so long overdue.”

HR 24 has received 413 co-sponsors—seven more than the previous record. The process just recently started in the Senate and has also garnered the support Richard Burr (NC), Kay Hagen (NC) and Johnny Isakson (GA).

For over two centuries, the Marine Corps has fought side by side with the Navy. However, the Marine Corps name is not mentioned at the department level or even in the letterhead of condolence letters sent to the families of fallen Marines.

Driven largely by this fact, [Marine Corps Identity Cause](#), sponsored by the Marine Corps League, has attracted powerful supporters including actor **R. Lee Ermey**, Gens. **Alfred Gray** and **Anthony Zinni** and former Secretary of the Navy **Lawrence Garrett**.

Ermey, well known for military roles such as “Full Metal Jacket”, has been lobbying Congress since 2009 on the issue.

“Now that it’s expected to pass the House, I can’t think of one rational reason for the Senate not to pass this,” said Ermey, a Marine veteran. “We’re just talking three words—three words that would do so much.”

A Senate floor vote is expected by this fall. The previous House record was held by the “Alice Paul Women's Suffrage Gold Medal Act” of 2007 at 406 co-sponsors, according to Congressional records.

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About Marine Corps Identity Cause

Marine Corps Identity Cause is a grassroots campaign founded in 2009 to give Marines equal status with the Navy. The campaign, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, has one simple—but important—goal: To get Congress to change the name of the Department of the Navy to the “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.”

For information on how you can be part of this effort, visit <http://www.marinecause.com>.

About Marine Corps League

Incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, the Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines who proudly wear, or who have worn, the eagle, globe and anchor of the Corps.

For more information, go to <http://www.mcleague.com>.