



US Board on Geographic Names Advisory Committee on Undersea Features Statement on Commemorative Naming

The United States Board on Geographic Names' (BGN) Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) has set forth guidelines to follow in proposing names for undersea features. These guidelines may be found in the document "Policies and Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names," 2002 (available at: <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/underseafeatures.htm>).

The committee has recently been discussing the topic of commemorative naming. A review of past practice had led the committee to believe that the guidelines have not been as stringently applied as they should have been. For this reason, the following statement of intent has been prepared and accepted by the committee:

Statement of Intent:

The BGN ACUF would like to draw the attention of individuals and parties interested in proposing commemorative names for undersea features to the following statements from the document "Policies and Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names:"

Item A2 states that: "The principal concern in naming is to provide effective, conveniently usable, and appropriate reference; commemoration of persons or ships is a secondary consideration."

Item A3 states that: "The first choice of a specific term, where feasible, should be one associated with a geographical feature."

Item A4 states that: "Specific names may be used to commemorate ships or other vehicles, expeditions, or scientific institutes involved in the discovery of the feature, or to honor the memory of famous persons."

Item A5 states that: "If names of living persons are used, surnames are preferable, and they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences."

Item A11 states that: "Inappropriate names include those that are of persons occupying high offices who have not contributed directly and significantly to the knowledge of the oceans or undersea topography."

The BGN ACUF intends to rigorously apply these policies and guidelines in the future consideration of commemorative names proposed to the committee.