

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0603

February 12, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

During your upcoming summit this month in Hanoi, Vietnam, with North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, I again respectfully ask that you address the return of the USS Pueblo (AGER 2). It is an important topic that should be included in the United States' dialogue with North Korea.

This historic summit provides another opportunity to directly discuss the return of the USS Pueblo (AGER 2), which remains an enduring piece of American history. This storied, American naval intelligence ship is named after Pueblo, Colorado, a city located in Colorado's Third Congressional District. This year marks the 51st year of North Korea's unlawful seizure of the Pueblo, which was not violating North Korea's territorial waters, but rather peacefully conducting a routine, intelligence gathering mission in international waters.

Among its 83 crew members, North Korea's capture of the Pueblo did tragically result in one fatality, Petty Officer Duane Hodges. The remaining crew endured eleven months of torture at the hands of their North Korean captors. Fortunately, their freedom was secured by the U.S. government. However, prominently moored in Pyongyang, the Pueblo continues to be used by North Korea as propaganda.

The time has come for the Pueblo to return home to the United States. The Pueblo is the U.S. Navy's only commissioned vessel that remains in captivity. I appreciate any dedicated efforts by your Administration to ensuring that the Pueblo is returned home with the dignity and respect it deserves. It is important that the actions of North Korea on that fateful day in January 1968 and the sacrifice of Petty Officer Duane Hodges are never forgotten.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Tipton  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary, U.S. Department of State