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## Surface Navy To Deploy in LA

■ Battleship Iowa to Become the National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN) in 2023



*Battleship Iowa Museum announces an expansion of its services and exhibition space to include the National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN). The mission of the museum is to raise awareness of the United States Navy Surface Fleet's important role in international relations, free trade, humanitarian assistance and technological innovation.*

"I passionately believe in providing a conduit between the Navy and the civilian communities to build public awareness throughout the world."

Jonathan Williams  
President & CEO  
Battleship Iowa Museum

Battleship Iowa Museum announces expansion of its services and exhibition space to include the National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN). The NMSN will be located on the second deck of the legendary warship, also known as the "Battleship of the Presidents" signaling the four commanders-in-chief who have graced her teak decks. The \$19 million expansion is envisioned as a community-based and future-oriented facility to be harbored at the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's busiest. The mission of the museum is to raise awareness of the United States Navy Surface Fleet's important role in international relations, free trade, humanitarian assistance and technological innovation.

The work will be done in three phases and will be completed in 2030. The 15,000 square foot re-

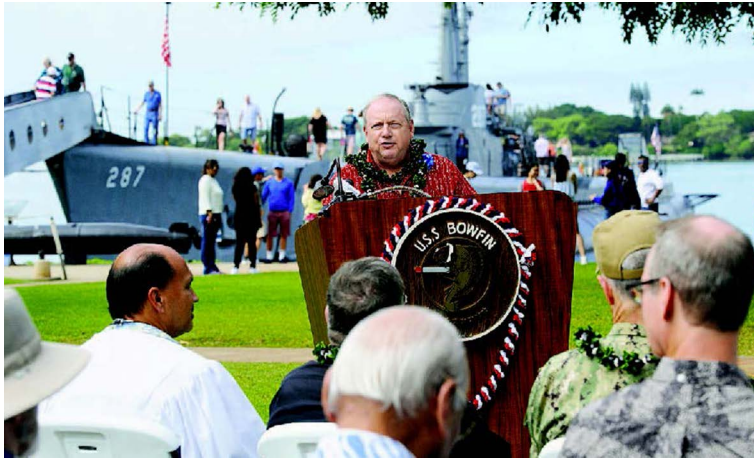
furbishment will begin with a proposed move to the anchor location at the newly redeveloped San Pedro Public Market on the LA Waterfront. A veterans' park and large outdoor amphitheater will be built adjacent to the ship for exhibitions, military services and days of remembrance such as Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Nearly 15,000 square feet of exhibit space will be added by removing unneeded berths. An additional 20,000 square feet of below deck exhibit is planned as well as a building ashore that will provide an additional 20,000 to 50,000 square feet to showcase on-going and transient exhibits, theater, classrooms and lecture halls.

[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)

[NMSN WEBSITE](#)

# News Around the Fleet

## ■ Groundbreaking For New *Bowfin* Museum in Honolulu



USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park Executive Director Chuck Merkel addressed the gathering with the USS Bowfin in the background during the groundbreaking ceremony of a \$20 million revitalization project on its campus at Pearl Harbor (Honolulu Advertiser)

The USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum and Park, the most visited submarine museum in the world, is adding a modern update to its storied namesake's World War II past.

Officials broke ground in mid-January on a \$20 million revitalization and expansion at the sub museum's Pearl Harbor location next to the USS *Arizona* Memorial visitor center. The updated museum will include three exhibit galleries that span the history and future of submarine warfare: the submarine force of World War II, the Cold War and today's force and into the future.

When the changes are completed in April 2020, it will get a new name: the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum. Executive Director Chuck Merkel said the groundbreaking "is a significant milestone as we take a major step toward achieving our vision of revitalizing our campus to better honor the past and inspire the future." The lawn ceremony was set against a busy Pearl Harbor backdrop of hundreds of visitors milling around the *Bowfin* and *Arizona* Memorial visitor center grounds. The latter remained open during the partial government shutdown due to ongoing donations of hundreds of thousands of dollars from the *Bowfin* and other nonprofits that operate in Pearl Harbor, the state of Hawaii and the tourism industry. During the *Bowfin*'s renovation, portions of its campus will be closed to the public during construction, but its centerpiece submarine will remain open throughout the project.

"It's going to really inspire more people to come over and take a look"

Chuck Merkel  
Executive Director  
USS *Bowfin* Submarine  
Museum and Park



## ■ Boring Out the Big Guns on the USS Monitor

More than 15 years after Navy divers and NOAA archaeologists recovered the historic gun turret of the USS *Monitor* in 2002, conservators at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA, are preparing for a giant step in the preservation of two of the landmark Civil War ironclad's heaviest and most iconic features.

Immersed in treatment tanks since they were hoisted from the turret in 2004 — and cleaned by repeated campaigns of meticulous work with hand chisels and small air tools — the outsides of the *Monitor's* 16,000-pound Dahlgren guns are now so free of marine concretions that the inscriptions engraved at the Washington Navy Yard in 1862 can be read with ease, Chief Conservator William Hoffman says.

Electricity and chemistry have combined to complete their job, too, drawing out so much of the potentially destructive marine salts absorbed during 140 years in the Atlantic that they no longer pose a danger.

Yet inside the deep, 11-inch-wide bores the concretions still cling tightly — and the salts lurking behind them remain out of the reach of the electrolytic reduction treatment needed to prevent the iron from cracking when exposed to the air.

That's why the museum and its USS *Monitor* Center are making plans to rig, center and level the heavy guns on a custom-built sliding bed — then core out their roughly 11-foot-long bores with a continuously adjusted industrial drill.

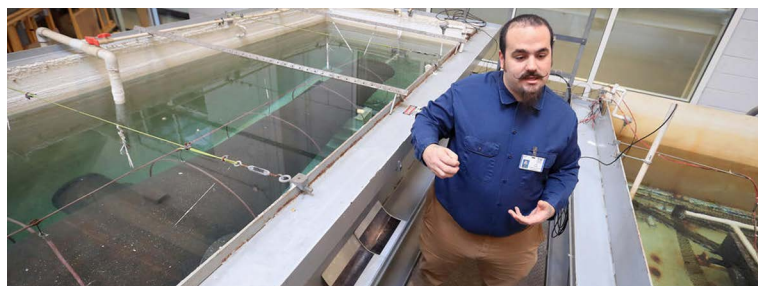
"This is the last challenge when it comes to getting these guns out in front of the public — and it's a challenge of scale," Hoffman says. "No one has ever done this on a gun this big before."

## ■ Discount to Members at American Patch and Emblem Company

One of the HNSA Associate members, American Patch and Emblem Company, is offering a 10% discount to all members, Fleet, Associate, and Individual members of HNSA. Questions can be directed to Pamela Sarracino at 800-752-1667 and [info@americanpatch.com](mailto:info@americanpatch.com). Visit them on their website [HERE](#) and on social media [HERE](#).



Mariners' Museum archaeological conservator Erik Farrell talks about the process that will be used to drill out the "concretion" from the inside of the USS *Monitor's* Dahlgren guns. Over its time in at the bottom of the ocean the cannon filled with a mixture of iron corrosion, calcium deposits and sand that hardened into a concrete-like substance. (The Daily Press)



View of surface concretion, corrosion product, coal, and ocean sediment in the bore opening, port Dahlgren (MNMS. 2002.01.769A) during initial bore excavation in 2005 at The Mariners' Museum and Park. (Mariners' Museum)

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



# Reunion News



## ■ USS El Paso (LKA-117)

October 3-6, 2019  
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel  
Norfolk, Virginia

Contact: David Suhs  
94-870 Lumiauau St.  
Apt. X-204, Waipahu, HI 96797  
Telephone: 808-450-8704  
Email: [DavidS@ussmissouri.org](mailto:DavidS@ussmissouri.org)  
or [USSELPASOREUNION@outlook.com](mailto:USSELPASOREUNION@outlook.com)



Registration will begin in early 2019.

Crew members should wait to make hotel reservations after being contacted to do so.

## ■ USS LCI National Association

2019 LCI Veterans Reunion (hosted by the AFMM and LCI-713)  
Sheraton Hotel at the Portland Airport  
Portland, Oregon

REGISTRATION  
Visit the Website



**Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum**  
An Oregon Based Non-Profit Charitable Organization

PO Box 17220  
Portland, Oregon 97217  
Phone 541-226-5427  
[afmm@amphibiousforces.org](mailto:afmm@amphibiousforces.org)



## HNSA BULLETIN BOARD

### Lilac Timber Bell Stand

The Lilac Preservation Project is offering a timber bell stand to other museum ships. The bell is free to non-profits but an accepting institution will have to arrange for transportation from New York City. Mary Habstritt, Museum Director and President of the Lilac Preservation Project, said that they will assist with that to the best of their ability but they have to bear the cost.

Dimensions are approximately 41.5" wide at the bottom, 53" wide across the top, 70" high, and 35" deep.

This came to them with Lilac's bell from a veteran who had loaned the bell to the *Intrepid* for display. To the best of our knowledge, *Intrepid* built it for an exhibition.

For more information, contact Mary Habstritt at [mary@lilacpreservationproject.org](mailto:mary@lilacpreservationproject.org) or 917-709-5291.



## ■ Battleship New Jersey Mattresses For Sale



The Battleship New Jersey is ordering up new mattresses for their bunks that are used for over-nights and has asked us to distribute this information to our Fleet members with overnight programs who might need new mattresses.

The mattresses are 5" x 27" x 75", and are designed to fit coffin racks. They meet not only CPSC 1633, but also CAL 129, Boston IX-11 and City of New York requirements. They have a 312 coil, 13 gauge wire unit and extra edge supports. It has a full upholstery pad and high density foam which is wrapped around and anchored with steel hog rings (staples). They use a Firegard woven fabric, which resists moisture and provides soil release. The material can be washed with warm soapy water.

They are asking for \$142.00, which is what the New Jersey paid last time and will make that special price available to any other ships that need mattresses.

Those wishing to contact the company about the mattresses should call or email Ron Wolf at the Croydon Mattress Factory ([rwolf@wolfcomfort.com](mailto:rwolf@wolfcomfort.com)) or by phone at 215-378-4476.

## ■ North Carolina BUPERS Posters

Mary Ames Booker, curator at the Battleship *North Carolina*, has a series of WWII-era Bureau of Naval Personnel Training aid posters (engineering) that are not needed on BB-55. Other ships can have them. She has given us an Excel spreadsheet to share. She asks for other ships to cover the postage as they are rather large.

### SEE THE LIST

For more information or details, contact Mary Ames Booker at [mary.booker@ncdcr.gov](mailto:mary.booker@ncdcr.gov).

## ■ Cassin Young Radio Parts

Steve Briand's radio gang aboard the USS *Cassin Young* is requesting knobs for this radio matrix switch panel in Radio Central. If you have any information, email him [HERE](#).



# HAIL AND FAREWELL

## ■ Patriot Point's Mac Burdette Set to Retire in June

Patriots Point Development Authority (PPDA) announced in January that executive director Mac Burdette will retire effective June 30, 2019. The state agency's Board of Directors has formed a committee to immediately begin the selection process for Burdette's successor. Burdette has served as executive director of PPDA for nine years.

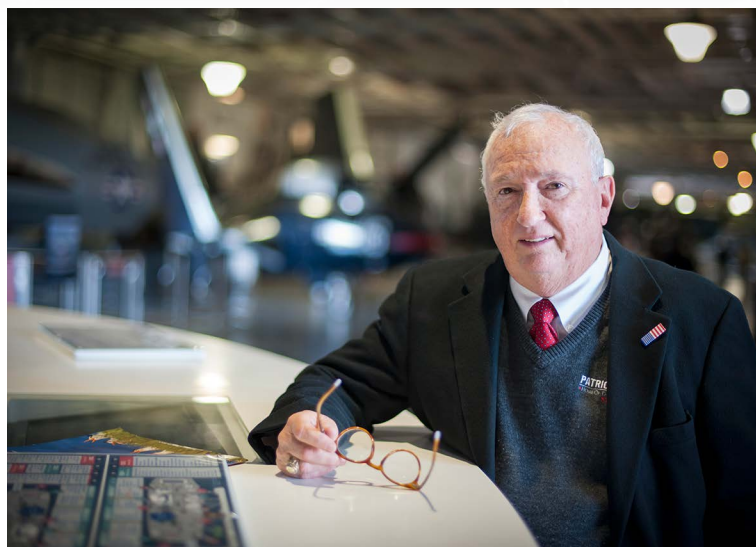
Under Burdette's leadership, the agency and its board of directors drafted a long-term business plan that resulted in record-breaking attendance at the museum in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and negotiated a 99-year lease to govern the future development of 60-acres of land that will fund the restoration of Patriots Point's aging warships for future generations.

"It has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my life to have served this great institution that has touched the lives of millions," Burdette said. "I am exceedingly proud and appreciative of all of the employees and volunteers with whom I have served these past nine years. They are among the finest individuals I have known."

Before assuming the duties of executive director at Patriots Point, Burdette served for 25 years as the city administrator for the Town of Mount Pleasant. In 2003, he retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a Colonel. During the Persian Gulf War, he served in Southwest Asia.

"It is bittersweet news to learn that Mac Burdette has decided to retire. Mac is one of the most gifted men I have ever met," said PPDA Board Chairman Ray Chandler. "He has given Patriots Point all of his immense energy and talent. We have been the beneficiaries of his unparalleled experience in business and government. We wish him every good thing in retirement."

Since Burdette was selected to lead Patriots Point in 2010, the museum has opened several significant exhibits that use the latest audio and video technology to honor veterans and educate visitors about military history. Those exhibits include



*Mac Burdette led Patriots Point for nine years after retiring from the Town of Mt. Pleasant and the U.S. Army. Burdette was also a member of the HNSA Board and, along with his talented staff, brilliantly hosted the 2017 HNSA Conference at Patriots Point. Mac's hard work and legacy has undoubtedly left an impression at Patriot's Point and aboard the USS Yorktown and Laffey. HNSA thanks him for his efforts and wishes him the very best on any and all new endeavors.*

among others, the three-acre Vietnam Experience, the USS Laffey Combat Information Center and the first phase of the USS Yorktown's Engine Room Experience. In the last nine years, Patriots Point has offered more than 70 free community symposiums has become an official Department of Defense partner for the ongoing commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

[READ MORE](#)

# HMAS Castlemaine

Historic WWII Corvette



## ■ Peter Driver Passes; Dennis Gale In Charge

Peter Driver, long-time President of the Maritime Trust of Australia in Williamstown, Victoria, passed away in October of last year. Williamstown is the home of the HMAS *Castlemaine*. In his absence, Mr. Dennis Gale is now appointed as the new President of the Maritime Trust of Australia. The Trust has been a HNSA Fleet member for many years. We wish Dennis Gale the very best.

For more information on the trust, visit the *Castlemaine's* page [HERE](#).

## ■ New Marketing Director at *Lexington* Museum on the Bay



We are pleased to announce that Cassandra Champion is the new Director of Marketing at the USS *Lexington* Museum on the Bay. She can be contacted at [cassandra@usslexington.com](mailto:cassandra@usslexington.com).

# Historic Naval Ships Association

To Support the Preservation of Historic Naval Vessels &  
To Honor Those Who Serve at Sea



Dr. William B. Cogar  
Executive Director

626-C Admiral Drive  
Box 320  
Annapolis, MD 21401

443-949-8341

ExecutiveDirector@  
HNSA.org

Layout: Matthew T. Eng

Jonathan Williams  
USS *Iowa*  
President

Mike Carr  
USS *Missouri*  
Vice-President

John Elliker  
USS *Wisconsin*  
Treasurer