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HNSA Receives Generous Grant from "Tin Can Sailors"



Photo of the Check Presentation to HNSA (Chuck Merkel, HNSA)

The **National Association of Destroyer Veterans** ("Tin Can Sailors") is a long-time Associate Member of Historic Naval Ships Association and its Executive Director, Terry Miller, is a long-time member of the HNSA Board of Directors. Here, Terry presents the check on behalf of the Association to Mike Carr, President of HNSA, at the March Board meeting in Annapolis.

HNSA is grateful for all the support that the Tin Can Sailors provides - not only to HNSA in the form of this very generous gift - but for all the support, financial and otherwise, it provides to the Destroyers and Destroyer Escorts that are in the HNSA Fleet. Thank you Tin Can Sailors!



CDR John A. Benda, USN

■ Constitution Change of Command

On 29 Feb 2020, CDR John A. Benda, USN, relieved CDR Nathaniel R. Shick as commanding officer of the USS *Constitution* at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Charlestown, MA. CDR Benda, becomes the 76th commanding officer of USS *Constitution*, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, which played a

crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes for the United States from 1797 to 1855.

[Visit the USS Constitution Website](#)

[Visit the Naval History and Heritage Command Website](#)

News Around the Fleet

■ M314 *Alta* Decommissioned

On 5 May 2020, the Norwegian ship M314 *Alta* was decommissioned in a Navy-style ceremony. The decommissioning was performed by the leader of the *Alta* Association (Fartøylaget), Edgar Huseby, a retired sea captain from the merchant fleet and he completed his military service on the Norwegian Navy MTBs. There were twenty persons at the event, carefully arranged accordingly due to the global pandemic. M314 *Alta* board member and photographer Arve Iversen is set to produce a scrapbook showing *Alta*'s history from 1953-2020. They intend to offer this to all our friends in Norway and abroad.

The ship was launched at Hodgdon Shipbuilding, East Boothbay, Maine, USA, on January 21, 1953, as number 101 of US AMS-60-class (*Adjutant*-class minesweeper). In 1966 it was transferred from the Belgian Navy to the Royal Norwegian Navy and named *Alta*. It then served in the Royal Norwegian Navy for 30 years as part of the *Sauda*-class minesweepers. In 1996 it was decommissioned and transferred to the Norwegian Defence Museum. In order to preserve the ship, a group of minesweeper veterans organized the *Alta* Association (Fartøylaget M314 *Alta*) and signed a management agreement with the Defence Museum Alta. Extensive work began to restore M314 *Alta* to operational state. With a substantial financial donation from the Department of Defence the restoration was completed in 2007. It was then and still is then the largest wooden ship in active service in Norway and probably the last original and operational version of AMS-60 class.



(Photos by Arve Iversen/M314 *Alta*)

The *Alta* Association was recognized as member of the Historic Naval Ships Association in October 2002.

Over the years, many active and competent members of the *Alta* Association have continued to maintain and sail *Alta* for the pleasure of members, sponsors and Naval personnel. *Alta* has also represented the Royal Norwegian Navy through numerous port visits along the Norwegian coast. Many formal and informal social gatherings have been arranged onboard at the home base in Oslo. The hospitality offered, the traditional fares provided, and the accompanying services have been well received and appreciated by our members and guests. Over the last years, however, it has become increasingly challenging to maintain and operate *Alta* due to the aging of the vessel as well as the members of *Alta* Association, and the lack of financial means to keep up with the decaying process.

In 2019, the Navy concluded that they were not able to prioritize the support needed. The *Alta* Association realized that with the shortage of able crew and financial support it would be impossible to satisfy the requirement of the management agreement. Consequently the agreement with the Defence Museum was cancelled. They hope that the Defence Museum may find a sustainable solution for M314 *Alta* that will keep this historically important ship alive for the future.

■ Inspirational *Laffey* Video Created at Patriots Point

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum recently posted an inspirational video about USS *Laffey* to inspire us during this trying time. The video features narration by Chauncey Clark, Chairman of the USS Yorktown Foundation.

You can find the link from their YouTube channel [HERE](#).



■ Education Opportunities for Maryland Fleet Week

As the world is navigating our new normal impacted by COVID-19, Maryland Fleet Week & Air Show Baltimore is still actively planning our event in September. Committees are meeting, now from their homes, and we are as excited as ever to reach a time where we can all gather to celebrate the Fleet & Flights and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.

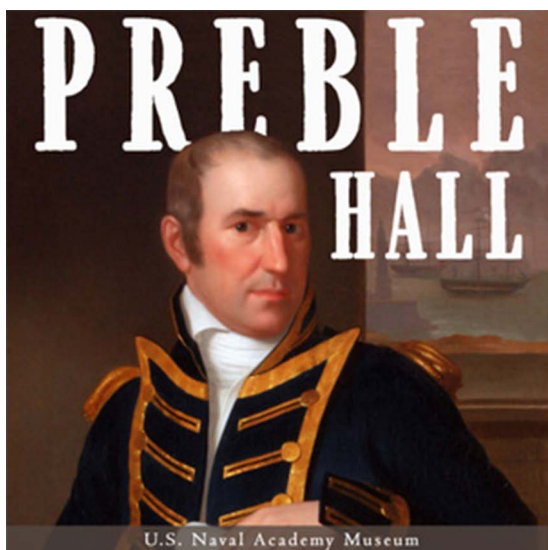
Maryland Fleet Week & Air Show Baltimore offers many educational opportunities for students as well as our community. We are working with many local and Navy Partners through our education committee to plan our "Navigate the Fleet" experience for local students.

Through generous support from Maryland Heritage Area Authority, Maryland Fleet Week is collaborating with Maryland Historical Society to create a classroom resource that will serve Baltimore area students and teachers by highlighting Maryland's role in the war effort.



Why wait until September to start learning about Maryland's impact on the war effort in WWII? *The Maryland Historical Society* are able to share a window into what life was like in Baltimore during the war. You can also **TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR** of the USS Torsk (SS-423) Conning Tower

■ USNAM Featured on Preble Hall Podcast



In the latest **naval history podcast from Preble Hall**, U.S. Naval Academy Museum (USNAM) in Annapolis, MD, managing director Charles Swift and senior curator Tracie Logan discuss the history of Preble Hall at the Naval Academy, the major collections, and what museums consider when people offer items. The podcast is conducted by museum personnel and includes interviews of historians, practitioners, military personnel, and other experts on a variety of naval history topics from ancient history to more current events.

■ Mariners' Museum Bores Gun of USS *Monitor*, Moves Toward Displaying the Ironclad's Weapons

A pair of 8-ton Dahlgren guns—once in the rotating turret of the famed Civil War ironclad *Monitor*—has been in a chemical bath at Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA, for several years. On Feb. 25, conservationists finally got their first chance to put a one-of-a-kind drill to the innards of the two guns from *Monitor*, clearing out the silt, coal, and other debris that have accumulated over the past hundred and fifty years. Once the work is finished, conservationists will be able to see how much salt remains in the metal and start the process of chemically removing it. Clearing the physical contents of the guns is the last major mechanical step in their conservation. It will enable the museum staff to establish a timeline for putting the guns on display. "We take years to prepare for (a few hours) of operation," said Will Hoffman, the museum's director of conservation. "We only get one shot, so the alignment has to be just right." For more, read the article in [The Virginian-Pilot](#).



Mariners' Museum conservation staff watch as one of the USS Monitor's Dahlgren guns is hoisted out of a tank Tuesday February 25, 2020. The conservators cleared out the gun's barrel using a custom made boring machine and the event marked a key step toward displaying the artifact.
(Jonathon Gruenke/Daily Press)

"We take years to prepare for (a few hours) of operation."

Will Hoffman
Director of Conservation
Mariners' Museum

■ Nautical Archaeologists Visit *Constitution*

In early January 2020, Benjamin loset and fellow archaeologists gathered in Boston, MA, for the 2020 Society for Historical Archaeology meetings. The meetings provided an opportunity for the group to visit USS *Constitution*. Earlier, loset and a colleague approached Alexis Catsambis of NHC's Underwater Archaeology Branch about arranging an extended tour, as many of the most extraordinary aspects of *Constitution's* construction are beyond the typical tour. As a nautical archaeologist, loset studies maritime history and societies through the remains of ships, shipbuilding methods, and communities. "*Constitution* is a remarkable floating example of how ships form a microcosm of the societies, which built, maintain and sailed them," noted loset. "*Constitution* is importantly a reflection of the fledgling years of the United States." For more, [read the blog](#) by loset at *The Sextant*.



■ Battleship *North Carolina* Receives CAP Grant

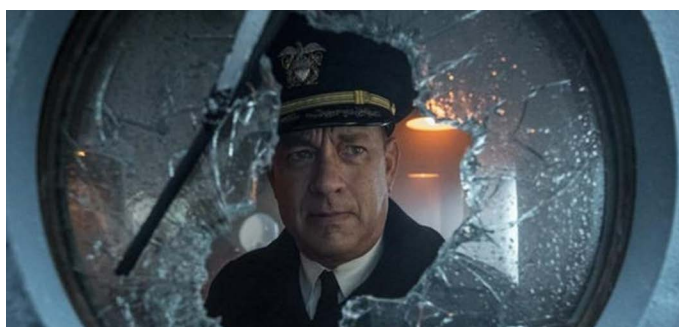
Battleship *North Carolina* recently received a \$7,000 CAP grant for collections assessment. The **Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP)** program is a joint effort of the Institute of Museum and Library Services - an independent Federal agency, and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation to help small and mid-sized museums better care for their collections.

BZ to CAPT Terry Bragg and everyone involved!



■ Tom Hanks Stars in Historical Drama *Greyhound*

Tom Hanks is back in a charismatic World War II role as Navy Capt. Ernest Krause in the film *Greyhound*. The movie, based on C.S. Forester's 1955 novel *The Good Shepherd*, takes place in the early days of the war. Krause is entrusted with his first command of a U.S. Navy destroyer (codename: *Greyhound*) protecting an Allied convoy of 37 ships as it crosses the Atlantic. During their voyage, the Allies find themselves fending off packs of Nazi submarines. Krause vows to "bring hell down from on high" on the attackers. Of note, Hanks—who also starred in *Saving Private*



Tom Hanks takes on Nazi U-boats in his new World War II drama *Greyhound*. (Photo from SONY)

Ryan—wrote the script for the action-packed drama, and Aaron Schneider directed. Stephen Graham, Elisabeth Shue, and Rob Morgan co-star.

This film is important to HNSA because the exterior filming and

several interior shots were done aboard *USS Kidd*. The film crew took over the ship for several weeks to film.

Greyhound is scheduled to be in theaters June 12. Watch the trailer at [USA Today](#). [Trailer 1/Trailer 2](#)

■ Slater Featured on World of Warships Video Series

World of Warships, a popular online naval simulation game, featured *USS Slater* on their January 2020 installment of "Naval Legends." Much of the nearly twenty minute video was shot on location at the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum in Albany, NY. The video features former destroyer escort crew interviews and a brief by Timothy Rizzuto, Executive Director of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum.

Watch the video on the World of Warships YouTube page [HERE](#).

Visit the *USS Slater* website [HERE](#).



"Space per man on a US destroyer escort was 1/6 to what the U.S. Bureau of Prisons said a prisoner had to have at a shoreside penitentiary."

Timothy Rizzuto, Destroyer Escort Historical Museum Executive Director

■ USS Orleck Tow to Dry Dock Temporarily Suspended

The previously scheduled movement of the ex-USS *Orleck* (DD-886) on March 17th has been temporarily suspended due to impacts of the federal, state, and local state of emergency declarations concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The tow to Gulf Copper Manufacturing's Central dry dock yard in Port Arthur, TX, will be rescheduled.

The resulting decisions to shut down or limit certain operations and activities throughout the country to protect the health and well-being of our fellow citizens requires by their very nature that individuals, businesses, and organizations review their on-going operations.

In the case of the movement of the *Orleck*,

the leadership of both the USS *Orleck* Naval Museum (USSONM) and the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) agreed that it would be prudent to temporarily suspend the relocation effort due to the cumulative impact on the individuals and organizations involved in the movement and repair of the ship. Meanwhile, volunteers and supporters from both organization continue preparations for tow.

JHNSA's March 13, 2020, press release stated "JHNSA remains committed to preserving the historic warship and creating the Jacksonville Naval Museum (JNM). All other preparations to ready the ship for towing, along with administrative and operational museum planning, and

financial capital and donation fundraising will continue." JHNSA expects to proceed with movement as soon as it is practical.

The historic 75-year old ex-US Navy destroyer will undergo inspection, repairs, application of preservation products, and painted, then embark on a seven to eight day tow from Port Arthur to downtown Jacksonville where it will be moored at "Pier 1" on the St John River in the old Shipyards area of the Sports and Entertainment District. The total projected cost is estimated at \$2.8 million according to the president of JHNSA, CAPT Daniel K. Bean, USN (Ret.).

The *Orleck* Museum at 604 N. Enterprise Blvd, Lake Charles, LA, is closed to visitors effective March 2nd, 2020, so that volunteers and workers could proceed with packing, storing, and securing museum artifacts, documents, and equipment while other

volunteers addressed tasks directly related to the tow such as positioning and testing pumps, alarms, generators, lighting and other items required by the trip-in-tow survey and tow plan.

The moving and packing company "Two Cajuns and a Truck," is augmented by volunteer efforts as well as by temporary labor from Lofton Staffing. Additionally, ten Washington-Marion High School Junior ROTC students volunteered their efforts when their previously scheduled community service project at a local nursing home was canceled due to recently implanted COVID-19 precautions. The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) - Lake Charles visited the ship on March 13th, 2020, to review status of the action items completed so far.

Orleck Museum memberships remain valid during the transition and will be transferred to JNM when the ship reopens at its new home at a commensurate level for the duration of the existing membership. It is a great time to renew memberships or join as a member as the Museum participates in the Individual Member Admission Exchange as a Fleet Member of the Historic Naval Ship Association (HNSA) that permits card holding members free or reduced admission to other Fleet Member ships.



(Top Left) Justin Weakland (left) and Craig Barnett (right) volunteers and Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) spent several days at the USS Orleck Naval Museum assisting local volunteers and staff with pre-tow preparations. (Top Right) Area marked on starboard side as a "no tug" area, one of many pre-tow tasks being completed. (Lower Left) Taking down one of the USS Orleck signs on the starboard side of the ship. The Orleck is being prepared for tow to Gulf Copper dry dock in Port Arthur, Texas, for inspection and repair before being towed to Jacksonville, Florida, to serve as the flag ship of the Planned Jacksonville Naval Museum. (Lower Right) USS Orleck in Lake Charles.

■ "A Bold Ship for the Bold City!"

The Jacksonville Naval Museum (JNM) will feature the "U.S. Navy Cold War Experience," with the decommissioned USS *Orleck* as the center piece. The *Orleck*, built during WWII, served the length of the Cold War with the U.S. Navy and later in the Turkish Navy. She would earn 18 battle stars during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The *Orleck* is "A Bold Ship for the Bold City!" The JNM is located within a 30 to 45 minute drive to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay - all who were once home to major naval workhorses of the Cold War era.

At the most basic form, the Jacksonville Naval Museum will preserve naval history - at the heart of the museum it will honor both active duty personnel and Veterans, inspire future generations of patriots through STEM+ History education, and serve the community and contribute to the economic growth of Downtown Jacksonville. It is a community-led organization with board members and supporters who are passionate about making a difference in their community.

2020 UPDATE

In mid-January of 2020, the Jacksonville Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) unanimously approved a resolution to enter a one-year development agreement with JHNSA to bring the *Orleck* to Jacksonville. The plan is for the ship to be moored to "Pier #1" of the old Jacksonville Shipyards area, just off of 600 E Bay Street. JHNSA will be able to place a temporary modular building at the location to use a ticketing and gift shop. This site may not be the permanent location in downtown, since a different and better long term solution may be developed in time.

In early March, *Orleck* Museum board members President Dave Farmer with Ship's Sup Steve Miller, along with two JHNSA board members Craig Bernat and Justin Weakland, combined forces with many volunteers to prepare the ship for towing. The ship will first be towed to Texas for dry docking where she will have her hull inspected followed by hull strengthening, minor repairs, and painting of the outside skin of the ship. Once complete she will be towed to Jacksonville, Florida. Original plans had the ship arriving in May, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the movement has been postponed until restrictions are lifted and movement can resume.



"We felt that the Jacksonville market is perfect for a Navy warship."

Dan Bean
President

Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association
(JHNSA)

Olympia Celebrates 125th Commissioning Anniversary

This article originally appears courtesy of ABC6 Action News (Philadelphia, PA)

Floating on the Delaware River is the stalwart Cruiser *Olympia*. One of the few World War I ships that remain in the country, she is now a hallmark tourist attraction of Penn's Landing.

On February 5, 2020, visitors celebrated her 125th commissioning anniversary.

The ship has called Philadelphia her home for nearly a century. Commissioned in 1895, she became the physical embodiment of American foreign policy for multiple presidential administrations. She served as the flagship during the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898 and notably carried the body of the Unknown Soldier of WWI from France to Arlington National Cemetery in 1921. Shortly after, she was docked in Philadelphia and became a museum ship in 1957.

Generations of Philadelphia families have journeyed the narrow hallways of Cruiser *Olympia*, learning about her scientific and cultural history.

Due to the ever evolving situation with COVID-19 and recent guidelines that have been imposed by local, state, and federal officials, the Museum has made the difficult decision to cancel many events for Olympia's 125th anniversary.

To learn more, visit their website.

■ Maritime Corporation Help Find New Home for John W. Brown

Project Liberty Ship and the SS *John W. Brown* have a new home after working with Maritime Applied Physics Corp. (MAPC) on an \$18 million plan to revitalize a portion of the former Bethlehem Steel Fairfield Shipyard. The project will provide a home base for the ship's education and cruise activities, and support MAPC's growing shipbuilding and maritime technology operations.

The proposal will utilize federal and state funding, in addition to corporate and individual donations, to rebuild a fitting-out pier at the former yard in South Baltimore. The pier would be owned and administered by a non-profit entity.

Project Liberty Ship operates the *John W. Brown* as a memorial to the vital wartime role of the U.S. Merchant Marine, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, and American shipbuilding personnel, three groups instrumental to victory in World War II as well as world-wide sealift operations in support of U.S. national security interests ever since. Its aim is to honor the legacy of all veterans.

The ship, a familiar sight on Baltimore's Canton waterfront since it returned to the city in 1988, was launched at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyard on Labor Day in 1942. Since restoration began, it has sailed more than 25,000 miles, visiting 29 North American ports with its trademark "living history" cruises that feature 1940s-era entertainment and



fly-bys from vintage aircraft.

It was just a couple of months ago that Project Liberty Ship officials reached out to the public asking for waterfront space or connections that could keep the ship in Baltimore. With its lease set to expire at the end of January, the organization had been looking for a new home for years, but couldn't find an area large enough to accommodate the ship. Named after a shipbuilding labor leader, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which designates sites and objects worthy of preservation in America.

The plan is expected to take about two years to complete. Project Liberty Ship officials will secure interim dockage until the Fairfield pier is ready.

■ New Curator at Los Angeles Maritime Museum: Welcome, Guadalupe Pena!

The Los Angeles Maritime Museum is happy to announce that Guadalupe Pena began work as the new Curator in January, 2020.

A Southern California native, Lupe earned her M.A. in History from California State University, Los Angeles. She has curated several exhibits and developed educational programs for the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington, CA, and was a member of the collections staff at the Museum of Latin American Art

in Long Beach, California. Lupe also assisted with the installation of "Taminaru: A Day in the Life of a Japanese American Fishing Community" at the L.A. Maritime Museum, which has proven to be one of the Museum's most popular exhibits.

The Museum is thrilled to have Lupe on board, and she is looking forward to meeting everyone at a future HNSA conference.



■ USS Kidd Offering Virtual Tours

Call it coincidence, or perfect timing, but USS *Kidd* is offering something new on their website -- a 3D tour of the forward section of the ship. Several weeks ago, Air Data Solutions contacted the Museum to request permission to visit and scan the ship for 3D modeling training. In exchange, it was agreed that the finished product would be made available to the public via the Museum's website.

Now, the USS *Kidd* website offers both a "guided" photographic tour with textual details and the new 3D exploration of the ship. This is a wonderful way for teachers and schoolchildren, history buffs, World War II enthusiasts, and the general public to visit USS *Kidd* from home.

To access the tours, follow this link [HERE](#) and click on either "Virtual 'guided' tour" or "Explore in 3D."

USS *Kidd* Veterans Museum is temporarily closed to the public in alignment with Louisiana Governor Edwards' guidelines. As a result, the Museum has virtually no income. While you're visiting the website, consider making a contribution, small or large, to help keep USS *Kidd* afloat during this closure.

USS *Kidd*, a National Historic Landmark, is a *Fletcher*-class destroyer commissioned in 1943.



She served with distinction and survived a Kamikaze hit in 1945. Also, she saw duty during the Korean Conflict and remained in service until 1964.

Air Data Solutions provides specialized imagery including, but not limited to, aerial pipeline patrol, leak detection, energy and culvert inspections, and underwater mapping. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Get a taste of what it was like to live aboard a World War II destroyer and then make plans to visit USS *Kidd* once restrictions are lifted and the Museum re-opens.

■ USS Cassin Young Sound-Powered Telephone Exhibit

The USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793), a WWII *Fletcher*-Class Destroyer and HNSA Fleet Member museum ship sits in the best possible environment. She is berthed in the former Charlestown Navy Yard and literally 300 feet from the oldest commissioned war ship, USS *Constitution*. The Yard itself hosts well over a quarter of a million visitors a year. Situated on Boston's Freedom Trail, it is a destination for visitors from all over the world.

The Yard is rich in naval history. It is home to the once thriving chain forge, maker of all die lock chain for the Navy, a rope walk, and builder of many ships, like *Fletcher*-Class Destroyers, although the *Cassin Young* was built in San Pedro, CA.

While on loan from the Navy to The National Park Service, onboard the *Cassin Young* is a group of dedicated volunteers who contribute countless hours of their time to preserve, restore, maintain, and most importantly, welcome visitors.

The ship is closed in the winter months which gives the crew the opportunity to catch up on maintenance projects and design some exhibits to enhance the visitor's experience. Some of these displays consist of equipment on board.

From time to time the Volunteers are asked to assist in the Visitors Center, staffed by the NPS a great resource when the ship is closed.

Having a telecom background, Volunteer Liaison Steve Briand designed an interactive, hands-on display for the visitor's center and pier side when the *Cassin Young* will re-open.

Using equipment from our numerous "strip-trip" events, Steve decided on sound powered phones which are still in use today. His research shows that they have been in use from 1944 to the present day. A talker in a 5-inch gun, 40mm gun tub and lookouts all manned one of the critical circuits. Included is a Navy manual for sound-powered phone etiquette.

The display consists of two sound-powered handsets and one talker set. They are linked together so the visitors can have a three-way conversation. The lights and a call bell all function.

Steve reports that he had a great time putting this together and hopes the younger visitors will enjoy a hands-on experience from the mid-1940s.



■ Crash Boat Looking for New Home

The present owner of the 85-foot crash boat P-520, Carlos Ruth, is looking for a new owner of the vessel. According to Ruth, the boat is "available to a museum that is capable of caring for her." There is no mention of a sale or the amount that is being asked for.

If you or your organization is interested, you can find Carlos Ruth at www.uscrashboats.org.



Historic Naval Ships Association

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

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