



Contents

HNSA Conference Recap..... 1

NEWS AROUND THE FLEET

NHHC at HNSA 2021..... 2

Hydrofoil in Mudflat..... 3

Shipyard Chosen for Texas..... 3

Soviet Sub Heads for Scrap..... 4

Nautilus \$36m Preservation..... 4

Carriers Sold for Pennies..... 4

Constitution CPO Heritage..... 5

Victory Coin in Mast..... 6

Spotlight on *Intrepid*..... 6

Patriots Point Career Fair..... 6

HAIL AND FAREWELL

MG Janet Cobb..... 7

Tennessee Museum Founder..... 8

Back Matter..... 8

2021 HNSA Conference Recap



Collection of Photos from the 2021 HNSA Conference (Ryan Szimanski)



I wanted to give you all a quick recap of this year's conference. The folks at Battleship Alabama

Memorial Park put on a fantastic show and were incredibly hospitable, in a way that only southerners can be. Although I must say the jet fuel they call sweet tea meant I didn't have to sleep the entire week I was in Mobile. We had some topnotch speakers, a productive board meeting, a great trade show thanks to our sponsors, and we got to see the largest living history event I've ever seen on a museum ship.

Attendance was better than any of us could have hoped for. In person attendance was below

that of an average year, however, when you count the folks who joined us virtually, we were right where an average conference is. I'd like to especially thank those of you who joined us virtually for bearing with me as I got you the log in info the night before and not having an official chat function. That is going to be the biggest change next year. We are going to continue to offer a virtual conference alongside our in-person meetings but in the future, I want there to be a chat function that every conference attendee, live and virtual, can comment on throughout the conference. The virtual sessions were recorded and will be posted on HNSA's website behind a password for members to watch.

By far the highlight of this conference were the various

after-hours receptions and events put on by Rhonda Davis (who also planned just about everything else at the conference). The opening and closing receptions at the park were great, both the aircraft pavilion and battleship's fantail make excellent venues. The cruise on *Perdido Queen* offered a unique view of the ships under construction at Austal. The most memorable event and I think a first for HNSA was the second line parade we did.

The folks at *Missouri* will have their work cut out for them topping this at next years conference. Join me virtually or in person in Honolulu next September to see how they do.

Ryan Szimanski
Executive Director

News Around the Fleet

■ NHHC Participates in 2021 HNSA Conference

Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) participated in the annual Historic Naval Ships Association (HNSA) Conference Sept. 22-25.

USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park hosted the 2021 HNSA Conference following a postponement of last year's conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference included the presentation of the 2021 NHHC Museum Excellence Awards, announced last month, by NHHC Director, retired Rear Adm. Samuel Cox.

The 2021 NHHC Museum Excellence Awards winners include:

Museum Overall Excellence

- Homeport Alliance for Battleship New Jersey (Large Category)
- Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association/ USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park (Small Category)

Curatorial Excellence Award

- Battleship *Missouri* Memorial (Large Category)

Maintenance Excellence Award

- USS *Alabama* Battleship Commission (Large Category)
- USS *Midway* Museum (Large Category)
- Destroyer Escort Historical Museum USS *Slater* DE766 (Small Category)
- The Mariner's Museum and Park (Other Category)

John DeLuca, director of NHHC's Communication and Outreach Division, discussed the Navy and HNSA's partnerships in bringing the Navy's history to the American public during a virtual panel with Robert Newell, director of Navy Community Outreach Programs, and Jonathan Williams,



Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) Director Samuel J. Cox, left, and NHHC Navy Museums Division Director Dave Adams present the "Maintenance Excellence Award" to Shanna Schuster, a representative for Destroyer Escort Historical Museum USS Slater (DE 766). NHHC presented the 2021 Museum Excellence Awards at the annual Historic Naval Ships Association Conference hosted at USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park (U.S. Navy Photo/Released).

"These are non-federal museums, and each had a unique approach in telling the Navy's story. Their ability to reach out to the public deserves to be recognized, and I truly feel that these winners are living up to naval excellence. They are honoring those that have served and are continuing to inspire and educate our next generation."

Sam Cox
NHHC Director

president and chief executive officer of Battleship *Iowa* Museum/National Museum of the Surface Navy.

"The members of HNSA are out

there telling the story of the Navy," said DeLuca during the virtual panel. "NHHC can't be everywhere, and I see HNSA as a force multiplier not just of the Navy but of Navy history."

Members of NHHC's Navy Museums Division, Collection Management Division, and Underwater Archaeology Branch presented on NHHC's historical resources and expertise that have assisted third-party researchers in the search, survey and identification of ship and aircraft wrecks, as well as the command's analysis of collected data on sites such as USS *Juneau* (CL 52).

"The discovery of U.S. Navy's sunken military craft and subsequent data analysis supports NHHC in its mission to preserve and present an accurate history of the U.S. Navy and to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who served," said Blair Atcheson, NHHC archaeologist.

■ Ex-Navy Hydrofoil now in Oregon Mudflat

The USS *Plainview* is one of the innumerable U.S. Navy ships that didn't have a well-known service career that cemented its name in the pages of history. Its namesake is borrowed from two small American neighborhoods. One is 35 miles east of New York City on the north shore of Long Island, New York, and the other is located in North Texas, around 50 miles north of Lubbock.

What the USS *Plainview* lacked in name recognition, it more than makes up for in its ludicrously awesome design. Consisting of what looks like a naval patrol boat blended with two foldable wing-like appendages, the USS *Plainview* was the largest and fastest hydrofoil in the world. Now, it remains sit partially submerged on the shores of the American northwest port city of Astoria, Oregon, leaking oil and rust-laden water into the surrounding waters.



(U.S. Navy Photo)

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY](#)

■ Texas Foundation Selects Shipyard for Repairs



The Battleship *Texas* Foundation (BTF) has selected Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation's Galveston shipyard as the location for the repair of the Battleship *Texas*. With the support of the Battleship *Texas* Foundation and Valkor Energy Services (BTF's project management and engineering firm for the ship repair), Gulf Copper recently acquired a floating drydock capable of lifting the Battleship *Texas* out of the water for necessary and extensive hull repairs.

Gulf Copper's new drydock

acquisition is a critical milestone in Battleship *Texas*'s \$35 million hull repair project. Gulf Copper's new drydock makes their Galveston shipyard viable for the Battleship *Texas* hull repair. In addition, the location of the yard in Galveston significantly reduces the risk of towing the Battleship to drydock since the tow is both in sheltered waters and the distance is much shorter than other potential options. The project group including the BTF, the operator of the Battleship *Texas*, Valkor, and the Texas Parks and

Wildlife Department (TPWD), the ship's owner, has worked carefully to mitigate the risks to the ship throughout the entire project.

The Battleship *Texas* is projected to enter Gulf Copper's new Galveston drydock in the second quarter of 2022 after the dry dock is made ready for the battleship.

Since the ship closed to the public in August 2019, BTF, TPWD, and Valkor have worked to prepare the ship for the shipyard. As one of one the preparation activities, Resolve Marine Group was contracted in 2020 to prepare the ship for tow by BTF and Valkor. BTF, Resolve, and Valkor worked for six months to drastically reduce the amount of water leaking into the Battleship *Texas*. By installing over 750,000 gallons of expanded foam, this team reduced the leak rate from 2,000 gallons per minute to under 20 gallons per minute, making the ship significantly safer to tow.

The Battleship *Texas* Foundation would like to thank its partners - Valkor Energy Services, Resolve Marine Group, TPWD, and Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation - for achieving this milestone in the long-term survival of Battleship *Texas*.

■ Soviet Sub in San Diego Headed for Scrap Yard



For 15 years, visitors to the Maritime Museum on San Diego's downtown waterfront could climb aboard a retired Soviet attack submarine known as B-39 and learn about the hidden world of undersea warfare.

Now the sub is destined for a place where it will disappear for all time – the scrap yard.

The outer skin of the 1970s-era *Foxtrot*-class vessel has been deteriorating for some time, its once sleek black profile disfigured by holes, rust and orange protective netting. Saltwater and the occasional severe storm have not been kind.

Museum officials said the sub is not as bad as it looks – the pressure hull remains stable, making B-39 as seaworthy as it was when it debuted at the Embarcadero in 2005.

"But that doesn't make its condition cosmetically acceptable in so prominent a location," said Raymond Ashley, president and chief executive of the museum. It detracts, he added, from the beauty of the other ships in the museum's collection. They include the iron-hulled sailing ship *Star of India*, the steam ferry *Berkeley*, the replica frigate *HMS Surprise* and another submarine, the *USS Dolphin*.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

■ Navy Celebrates Preservation of *Nautilus*

Senior Navy leaders, government and state officials, and veterans and friends of the world's first nuclear powered submarine, *USS Nautilus* (SSN 571), celebrated the commencement of a long-anticipated preservation of the historic ship during a ceremony at the Submarine Force Museum, Friday, October 15.

Retired Rear Admiral Samuel Cox, Director, Naval History and Heritage Command, joined Retired Rear Admiral John B. Padgett III, President of the Submarine Force Library and Museum Association; Mr. Bob Ross, Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of Military Affairs; Mr. Kurt A. Hesch, Senior Vice President of Programs at Electric Boat Shipyard; and Captain Kenneth M. Curtin Jr., 53rd Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London, in speaking at the celebration.

"Welcome to this wonderful celebration and momentous occasion!" highlighted Curtin. "The commencement of *Nautilus's* long-awaited preservation and the very rare opportunity to see this historic ship free of permanent pier moorings and underway once again, even if not under the power of the atom."

Hersh spoke of the submarine's origin and construction at Electric Boat and the excitement current shipyard workers have to be involved in its preservation.

Ross and Padgett noted *Nautilus's* impact and ongoing influence not only on the Navy and submarine warfare but also on Southeastern Connecticut, the nation, and the world.

Cox thanked Navy leadership for the re-investment in the "revolutionary" *Nautilus*, noting that the preservation will be the most significant



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jimmy Ivy III/Released)

work done on the submarine since it became a museum ship.

He then urged speakers and attendees to join him along the pier as *Nautilus* departed the museum, "underway" with tug assistance, and proceeded to nearby Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London.

At SUBASE New London, *Nautilus* will complete an estimated \$36 million preservation project to ensure the National Historic Landmark and Connecticut's State Ship will return to the museum as its centerpiece and able to inform, educate, and engage the public for the next 30 years.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

Conventionally Powered Carriers Sold for Pennies

The U.S. Navy has finally sold off what remains of the former aircraft carriers USS *Kitty Hawk* and USS *John F. Kennedy* for scrap, letting them go for one cent each. The service decommissioned both ships more than a decade ago but had kept them in mothballs as various groups attempted to secure them to turn them into museums, and there were even some brief discussions about returning *Kitty Hawk* to active duty. The Navy finally struck them from the rolls for good in 2017 and began prepping them to be broken down.

News emerged just recently that International Shipbreaking Limited,



a subsidiary of EMR Group situated in Brownsville, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico, had secured a deal with the Navy to take the carriers for a total of two cents. Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) first announced it was actively looking for a contractor to tow away

both ships and break them up last year.

"I've personally inspected her, so I know she's in good shape for towing," Chris Green, a senior manager at International Shipbreaking told The Brownsville Herald newspaper, referring to the former *Kitty*

Hawk. In March, the Navy announced it had put that vessel, which it decommissioned in 2009, into dry dock at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington, "to remove marine growth from the hull" as part of the process of getting it ready to be scrapped. Work to get the ship ready to leave for Brownsville is expected to begin next week.

The timeline for when the ex-*John F. Kennedy*, which the Navy retired in 2007, will make its final journey is much less certain.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

USS Constitution Underway For CPO Training



The USS *Constitution* is celebrating its birthday while training new naval officers.

On Friday, October 22nd, the 224-year-old

vessel was closed for the 2021 Chief Petty Officer Heritage Training Weeks. Current sailors, along with the help from 120 sailors selected for the

rank of chief petty officer, dropped all three of the ship's topsails for the first time since 2012 to commence the training.

The cruise was seen from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

In addition, a 21-gun salute was fired off by Castle Island at around 11:30 a.m.. A 17-gun salute at around 12:30 p.m. went off as the *Constitution* passed through the US Coast Guard Base Boston.

The base is the former site of Edmund Hartt's shipyard and where the ship was built and later launched in October 1797. The USS *Constitution* is also the world's oldest

commissioned warship afloat.

Sailors selected for the advancement to chief petty officer have come to the USS *Constitution* to train for more than 20 years. They spend a week living aboard Old Ironsides while immersed in naval heritage.

The newly selected officers will train with senior Navy mentors to learn the same skills as 19th century sailors. These officers learn skills such as gun drills, pike drills, sailing and musket drills.

■ 127-Year-Old Coin Found Under HMS *Victory's* Mast



(Diana Davis, Head of Conservation at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, holds a 127-year-old farthing on the gun deck of HMS *Victory*/AP)

A 127-year-old farthing has been discovered under the mast of Lord Nelson's flagship, HMS *Victory*.

The Victorian-era coin was found when the mast of the Royal Navy's oldest commissioned warship was removed for restoration work in May.

It will now go on display at the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) in Portsmouth to mark Trafalgar Day on October 21.

The date of the coin – 1894 – marks the year a set of masts were installed on the ship. They replaced Douglas fir masts from the 1850s which had become rotten.

The coin, which was placed under the ship for good luck in line with Victorian tradition, was discovered next to a metal wedge between the mast and the base plate.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

■ *Intrepid* Air & Space Museum Feature on Auto Site

New York City is home to more famous attractions in a small area than some whole countries have in their entirety. We won't bore you with a long list of them all. You can Google that if you wish. But if you're a petrolhead or military vehicle fan, the *Intrepid* Air and Space Museum is the crown jewel of the Big Apple.

Located at historic Pier 86 on the shores of the western

side of Manhattan island by the intersection of 12th Avenue and 46th street, the Museum ship is impossible to miss as you walk along the edges of western Manhattan. Reaching the museum requires at least one subway trip from uptown or downtown and a bus ride or a walk west to where Manhattan Island meets the Hudson River.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



■ Patriots Point Hiring for Multiple Positions

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, home of the historic USS *Yorktown*, will host a career fair on Thursday, November 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum is currently hiring for at least seven positions.

Available full-time positions include carpenter, electrician, administrative assistant to the executive director, registrar, and security specialist. The museum is also hiring part-time cashiers. The USS *Yorktown* Foundation is searching for a part-time development manager.

The career fair will take place in the Patriots Point parking lot, near ticket sales. Job seekers are encouraged to submit applications in advance by visiting www.patriotspoint.org/careers. Applicants can also use the link to find more information about the open positions, including the available salary ranges for full-time positions.

Participants should come with resumes in hand and be prepared for immediate interviews on-site.

"Patriots Point is such a unique and rewarding place to work," said Director of Human Resources Sylvia Wasden. "Our team has the opportunity to meet people from across the world while preserving stories of valor and historic Navy vessels. Working aboard and alongside the USS *Yorktown* is something to be proud of."

Job applicants who attend the career fair will have an opportunity to enter a raffle to win a Friends of the Fleet pass. Friends of the Fleet pass holders are entitled to unlimited admission for themselves and a guest for an entire year.

Benefits offered to Patriots Point full-time employees include health, dental, and vision insurance, term life insurance, long-term disability, and flexible spending accounts for

health and child care expenses. Full-time employees will also be included in the state retirement system, receive 13 paid holidays, annual and sick leave, and a reciprocity pass for the staff member and a guest to visit more than 50 Charleston attractions.

Patriots Point staff have the unmatched experience of working aboard a historic World War II aircraft carrier. All positions are vital to supporting the museum and its mission of preserving and educating the public about some of South Carolina's greatest assets.

To RSVP to the event, click [here](#).



HAIL AND FAREWELL

■ MG Janet L. Cobb Elected as HNSA President

We would like to extend our congratulations to MG Janet L. Cobb, USA (Ret.) on her election as President of the Historic Naval Ships Association during the 2021 Conference in Mobile. She will lead the organization, and the board of directors, for the next two years. She also became the eighth executive director of the USS *Alabama* Battleship Commission and Battleship Memorial Park back in December 2015.

She enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in May 1974 and served until August 1976. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps in May 1978 from the University of Alabama ROTC program, where she was named a Distinguished Military Graduate. MG (Ret.) Cobb was the fifty-fourth general officer and first female general officer to graduate from the University of Alabama. In April 2017, MG (Ret.) Cobb was one of seven selectees for the inaugural University of Alabama ROTC Hall of Fame.

She commanded at the detachment, battalion, brigade, directorate/brigadier general and major general levels. Her deployments include post-Desert Storm operations at the Ports of Al Jubayl and Ab Dammam, Saudi Arabia; Operation Iraqi Freedom port operations, Port of Ash Shuyabah, Kuwait (2002-2003).

MG (Ret.) Cobb's additional



deployments were joint assignments, where she served as Commander, 598th Transportation Group (Terminal) (2007), Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with oversight of military ports in Europe and North Africa; and Director, Central Command Deployment & Distribution Operations Center (Camp Arifjan, Kuwait) (2011), which directed all intra-theater airlift for Iraq and Afghanistan.

MG (Ret.) Cobb was assigned to the Department of the Army Staff as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, (Mobilization and Training) from 2011-2014. She was mobilized and served in the Pentagon on the Army Staff as Deputy G-4 in 2012. In October 2013, then-Secretary of the Army John Marsh appointed MG (Ret.) Cobb to the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee for a two-year term.

Her last assignment was Commanding General, 81st Regional Support Command, Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Senior Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. On August 8, 2016 she was retired from the Army of the United States after 42 years in uniform.

Her decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3), and various campaign and service awards.

She holds a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University; an M.S.S. from the United States Army War College and a B.A. from the University of Alabama.

She is a resident of the Barnwell community in Baldwin County.

■ USS Tennessee Museum Founder Passes

Paul E. Dawson, the founder and curator of the USS Tennessee Memorial Museum at Scott High School, died Tuesday, Sept. 28, at his home in Springfield, OH, following a battle with cancer. He was 73.

Born on Christmas Day in 1947, Dawson was a life-long Ohioan and spent years curating what is believed to be the largest collection of memorabilia from the USS Tennessee, the famed battleship that fought in more battles and fired more shots than any battleship in history.

The USS Tennessee survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and went on to play a major role in World War II. She shelled Japanese forces in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, survived a kamikaze attack, and took part in the Battle of Surigao Strait, which was the last battleship engagement in history.

Dawson's father, Lee Dawson of Springfield, was a photographer aboard the USS Tennessee prior to its retirement from service in 1946. His father's collection of USS Tennessee memorabilia keyed Paul Dawson's interest in the ship and preserving its memories.

Intrigued by the efforts of Gary Sexton and Scott High students to build the Museum of Scott County – America's only museum to be designed, built and maintained by high school students – Dawson and his wife, Karen, moved the USS Tennessee museum from their Springfield home to Huntsville in 2004.

A Jim Barna Log Systems two-story structure was built as part of the Museum of Scott County complex at Scott High, and opened to the public that same year. Paul and Karen Dawson moved to Jacksboro so that they could be close to the museum, and Dawson dedicated years to being on hand every time someone wanted to tour the museum.

While the USS Tennessee museum is sometimes



mentioned only as an afterthought to the Museum of Scott County, the pioneer village that surrounds it, and the Learning Lodge, Sexton said last week that it's the battleship museum that has received the most visitors through the years.

"Literally thousands of visitors from dignitaries of foreign countries to small children on field trips have passed through the doors of the museum," Sexton said in a statement. "Authors, videographers and researchers have used the museum for books, shows on the History Channel and numerous magazine articles, but it was the veterans and their families that Paul was the most dedicated to. He would spend countless hours at the museum preserving, preparing and persevering for the cause of the men and women who served on the ship and their families."

[READ THE FULL OBITUARY](#)



Historic Naval Ships Association

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

Ryan Szimanski
Executive Director

100 Clinton Street
Camden, NJ 08103

443-564-3823
ExecutiveDirector@
HNSA.org

Layout: Matthew T. Eng

Janet Cobb
USS Alabama
President

Steve Banta
USS Lexington
Vice-President

John Elliker
Treasurer

Chuck Merkel
Pacific Submarine Museum
Secretary