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Jonathan Williams Receives Award



President and CEO of Pacific Battleship Center Recognized for 13 Years of Exceptional Contributions to the U.S. Navy Through Battleship Iowa Museum, Los Angeles Fleet Week, and the National Museum of the Surface Navy (Pacific Battleship Center)

"This award was made possible by the support of my family and friends, and the incredible commitment of our crew and supporters."

Jonathan Williams
President and CEO
Pacific Battleship Center

National Museum of the Surface Navy and Battleship *Iowa* Museum President and CEO Jonathan Williams was recently awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award by the Department of the Navy.

This award, the Navy's highest honor for non-military civilians, was presented to Williams by Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, during the Surface Navy Association's 34th National Symposium in Arlington, VA.

Williams was recognized for his exceptional contributions to the Navy from July 2008 to July 2021 through the leadership and vision he provided for the Battleship *Iowa* Museum, Los Angeles Fleet Week, and the National Museum of the Surface Navy, which will formally open

on October 13, 2025, on the 250th birthday of America's Surface Navy. Among Williams' accomplishments was the establishment of USS *Iowa* as a Navy-licensed national museum that provides direct and indirect support to the Navy and has become a "top five" tourist attraction and museum in Los Angeles. According to the award citation, it is due to Williams' extraordinary vision and leadership that "the Battleship *Iowa* Museum and LA Fleet Week have become the example for ship museums and fleet weeks in recognizing the U.S. Navy and its critical role in serving our country and the world."

READ THE FULL RELEASE

News Around the Fleet

■ USS *Orleck* Inspection; Ship Fate Determined

After extensive inspections and additional Ultra Sonic (UT) testing while in drydock, it has been determined that ex-USS *Orleck* is fit to continue to serve as a museum ship. *Orleck* was previously a museum ship in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The last known drydocking and hull inspection of any kind was prior to the ship's towing back to the United States from Turkey in August of 2000. There was great concern of the hull's condition of what might be found once up in drydock. To the surprise of many the hull had little sea growth on it at all. This is likely due to the location in the fresh water, muddy bottomed Calcasieu River in Lake Charles. This satisfies the development agreement requirement of having evidence the ship is sound to serve as a museum ship in Jacksonville.

On January 11th, 1945, the ship - then under construction in Orange, Texas - was named USS *Orleck*, in honor of the World War Two Navy Hero Lieutenant Joseph Orleck, a Navy Cross recipient. Fittingly, on this day and 77 years later, the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) named USS *Orleck* as the official centerpiece museum ship of the Jacksonville Naval Museum. The JHNSA have assumed ownership of the *Orleck* museum ship from USS *Orleck* Naval Museum (UONM). The JHNSA wishes to thank the UONM for all their help and hard work during this process. Since January of 2020, the JHNSA has expended \$770,000 for inspections, initial drydocking,



Pier 1, future home of the Jacksonville Naval Museum and USS Orleck (Jacksonville Naval Museum)

ship insurance, towing, and other needs. JHNSA is in need of more donations, which can be done on our [website](#).

While in drydock at the Gulf Copper and Manufacturing Corporation, Port Arthur, TX, *Orleck* will receive steel plates - doubler plates - welded over all underwater hull openings as well at several thin hull locations. Upon dry docking the hull was washed with hot fresh water and inspected. She is going to be preserved and painted from the keel to the top of the fore mast. This is a time-consuming process that there could be delays from holidays, weather, and material supply chain delays, so we do not have an exact date of when the ship will be towed to Jacksonville. The ship may be ready in early February, rigged for tow and arrive to Jacksonville in mid to late February. The tow to Jacksonville is expected to take approximately 10 to 12 days.

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[YAHOO FINANCE NEWS STORY](#)

[STRIPES NEWS STORY](#)

[NEWS4JAX FEATURE](#)

"Bringing the ship to downtown and creating the Jacksonville Naval Museum is a monumental undertaking, but we feel with the support of our local community - this long-standing dream will be turned into reality!"

■ Battleship *Maine* Tub in Ohio Museum?

One of the most unusual pieces in the Hancock Historical Museum's collection – a rough, rusty bathtub – can be found resting unobtrusively in a corner of the exhibit center.

The steel tub was used by Capt. Charles Dwight Sigsbee, commander of the USS *Maine*. The battleship sank after an explosion in the Havana, Cuba, harbor in 1898, triggering the start of the Spanish-American War. More than 260 sailors on board were killed.

Curator/archivist Joy Bennett acknowledged that it's a really weird memento.

"It is our entry on the oddest items in Ohio," she said.



USS *Maine* bathtub at the Hancock Historical Museum (*The Courier*)

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STORY FROM THE COURIER \(OH\)](#)

■ Navy Rejects \$5m Bid for Carrier; Headed to eBay



USS *Kitty Hawk* towed out of Naval Base Kitsap on last voyage to scrapyard (US Navy)

The USS *Kitty Hawk* embarked on its final voyage to be broken down for scrap metal while veteran sailors wait for pieces of their beloved "Battle Cat" to begin showing up on eBay.

The conventionally powered aircraft carrier, the last of its kind, set off from Naval Base Kitsap in Washington after the US Navy sold it to a scrap dealer for 1 cent.

Chief Petty Officer Jason Chudy, one of the last 17 crew to serve on the warship under its final commander, Captain Todd

Z. Zecchin, watched alone from Seattle's Discovery Park as the veteran warship was towed to a shipbreaking yard in the Gulf of Mexico.

"It was an extremely foggy day and at one point the ship just kind of materialized out of the fog, with the tugs, and it came by," Mr Chudy told *The Independent*. "It was really a sad day for a lot of people," he added.

The *Kitty Hawk*, along with the USS *John F Kennedy*, was sold to International Shipbreaking Limited in Texas for 1 cent. Both were

launched in the 1960s before being decommissioned in 2009 and 2017 respectively, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

The deal was made after the Navy rejected a bid from the USS *Kitty Hawk* Veterans Association to convert the ship into a museum to be stationed at Long Beach, California, next to the retired ocean liner *Queen Mary*.

While the association raised \$5m in donation pledges for the project, it was estimated to be about half the amount needed for decontamination, development and maintenance of the ship as a museum.

Navy Office of Information spokesman Lt Seth Clarke told *The Kitsap Sun* that only vessels pending decommission determined to be "historically significant" are considered for donation.

But Mr. Chudy and the 1200 members of the *Kitty Hawk*'s veterans' association were blindsided by the Navy's sale for 1 cent while they were pushing for a museum.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

■ Voyage of Discovery Aboard SS American Victory



Volunteer engineer George Palmonka checks a map of S.S. American Victory's routes around the world during and between wars. (Hillsborough County)

S.S. *American Victory* no longer sails the world's oceans, to the benefit of Hillsborough County residents and visitors.

The 455-foot-long cargo ship is one of three remaining fully-operational *Victory*-class vessels from the World War II-era. Now a maritime museum and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 1940s-era steamship has a permanent berth at 705 Channelside Drive in Tampa.

The floating museum is largely self-sustaining, kept open and shipshape through modest entry fees and donations. It has received Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Challenge Grants, which are matching funds that support heritage tourism and boost the local economy. Most recently the Board of County Commissioners allocated \$99,900 for maintenance work to help ensure the ship receives U.S. Coast Guard certification.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

■ *Victory* Open During £35m Restoration

A century after HMS *Victory* was moved into her final resting place, in Dry Dock 2 at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the next phase of a £35m restoration project of the iconic and historic ship is set to begin.

These major conservation works to *Victory* carried out by the National Museum of the Royal Navy will ensure the ship is protected for the next half century.

It comes after first-phase work saw the ship supported from below by 130 state-of-the-art props, and a visitors' walkway created alongside the bottom of the hull.

Phase two will see rotting planking removed from the hull and replaced with new oak and repairs made to the ship's structural framework.

She will also be fully re-rigged to complete the refurbishment costing £35m and lasting ten to 15 years.

The work will provide visitors with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to see beneath *Victory's* skin and experience a First Rate Line-of-Battle ship being taken through a Great Repair.

HMS *Victory* was the flagship of Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar off the Spanish coast on October 21, 1805.

Under Nelson's command, a smaller Royal Navy fleet defeated a combined French and Spanish fleet.

But during the battle Nelson, easily distinguishable in his uniform, was shot and killed.

On returning to Portsmouth, HMS *Victory* continued in service until she was finally moored up in Portsmouth harbour, where she slowly deteriorated.



A £35 million conservation project to renovate HMS Victory, including replacing rotting planks, has been announced on the 100th anniversary of the warship being brought into dry dock.

One hundred years ago, on January 12, 1922, the oldest commissioned warship in the world was in danger of sinking, so she was towed from the harbour and secured into the dry dock.

Dry Dock 2 is a scheduled ancient monument and is itself 220 years old.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

■ NHHC Announces 2022 Awards Season

Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) announced the 2022 Navy History and Heritage Awards (NHHA) Program season, Jan. 4.

The NHHA program is an annual awards program that recognizes the work of organizations, museums, and individuals who use NHHC publications, documents, and artifacts in exhibits, published research, preservation, or lectures to publicly share the story of the U.S. Navy.

“These awards are for those museums that serve as force multipliers in informing the public of our Navy’s history and the importance of sea power to the security of

the nation,” said NHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral.

The objective of the NHHA program is to encourage and publicize scholarship about Navy history. This will mark the second year museums have been recognized through the new program.

The program honors well-researched and accurate history work in three categories:

- *The Navy History and Heritage Excellence Pennant (History “E”) for large, medium, small, or other-sized organizations recognizes overall excellence in telling compelling and*

- accurate stories of service at sea,*
- *The Maintenance Excellence Pennant (Maintenance “E”) for large, medium, small, or other-sized organizations recognizes excellence in preservation of macro artifacts such as ships and aircraft, and*
- *The Curatorial Excellence Pennant (Curatorial “C”) award will have one winner and recognizes those who go the extra mile to interpret and curate historical navy artifacts to accurately relay the history of Sailors and ships at sea*



during peace and war.

Amplifying information such as eligibility requirements and submission forms and guidelines can be found online on the NHHC website [HERE](#).

Submissions can be made starting March 1, 2022. The deadline for submission for awards covering calendar year 2021 is June 1, 2022.

■ *Ingham* Returns to Key West After Repairs

The historic U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Ingham* returned to its berth at Key West’s Truman Waterfront after a trip to Tampa Ship shipyard for \$650,000 of maintenance and repairs to the underwater portion of the hull.

Topside repairs will be done while the ship is at the berth. Tugboats escorted the most decorated Coast Guard ship in history to the boatyard and returned her to Key West on Dec. 30.

The ship will reopen for its popular tours and weekend happy hours in about two weeks, said its owner and director Bill Verge.



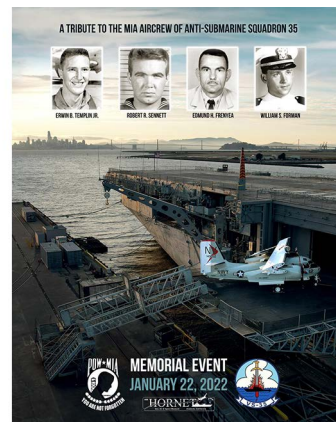
The Ingham will reopen for weekend sunset happy hours at Key West’s Truman Waterfront later in January. (MANDY MILES/Keys Weekly)

■ Ceremony Held on *Hornet* Honoring Missing Sailors

A very special MIA ceremony was held aboard *Hornet* in January honoring the aircrew that went missing off the coast of Vietnam on January 22, 1966.

The USS *Hornet* - Sea, Air and Space Museum's volunteer AirGroup have restored a Grumman S-2 Tracker as a memorial to the four-man crew of Anti-Submarine Squadron Thirty-Five (VS-35). During the Vietnam War, the USS *Hornet* conducted anti-submarine warfare operations in Southeast Asia. They also assisted in search and rescue operations for downed pilots. On January 22, 1966, William S Forman, Edmund H Frenyea, Robert R Sennett, and Erwin B Templin Jr took off from the flight deck of the USS *Hornet* in a S-2 Tracker (BuNo.149252) and never returned.

The restored aircraft (BuNo.136691) was delivered to the US Navy in 1959 and flew until 1982. In 1986 it was sold to a private collector and flown at air shows for many years. In the year 2000, the aircraft was donated to the *Hornet* Museum. AirGroup volunteers have been restoring this aircraft with the identical



markings of the plane that went missing on January 22, 1966.

Family members of the MIA were in attendance, as well as surviving shipmates for a public unveiling of the restored aircraft

in a special presentation with a flag and wreath ceremony by the ship's Chaplain-- 56 years to the day.

■ Burchenal Green Retires as NMHS President

After leading the National Maritime Historical Society for more than 25 years, president Burchenal Green has announced her plans to retire in 2022. Green will work with a succession planning and transition management team chaired by NMHS overseer George Carmany III to ensure the change in leadership is seamless and the organization continues to flourish.

Founded in 1963, the National Maritime Historical Society is a non-profit organization of some 7,000 members dedicated to preserving and promoting maritime history. The Society publishes the quarterly magazine *Sea History*, the pre-eminent journal of our maritime heritage. As announced in the winter 2021-22 issue, a na-

tional search for a new president is underway.

"I have had the distinct honor of leading the Society for more than a quarter of a century, and I'm grateful to be able to help lay the groundwork for NMHS's next leader," said Green. "With the Society in a strong position and in capable hands, I plan to retire this year—passing on leadership of the Society to those who will bring fresh perspective and energy to advancing its mission and strategy. That is the path forward as NMHS approaches its sixth decade of operations."

[READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT](#)



■ Navy Museum STEM and STEAM Programs

For centuries, museums have exhibited artifacts to educate patrons on the past, and to provide context for the present and future. Historical objects and ancient ideas showcase mankind's significant growth of intelligence and evolving abilities, and Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) museums are no different.

NHHC maintains 10 museums across the country, which all continue to expand the minds of today's youth and anyone else seeking a wealth of knowledge or new skills. Each offers various education programs, including focused activities on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. Some locations include arts as part of their program for a STEAM-based approach, and both styles of programming include history lessons to provide context.

According to the Department of the Navy (DoN)'s Naval STEM Strategy, the main goal of STEM is "to inspire, engage, and educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, and to attract, employ, develop, and retain our diverse technical workforce through collaboration to promote an effective and



efficient STEM portfolio across the DoN, the federal government, and the broad STEM community." These programs, whether in person or virtual, are offered free to the public as a service to our communities.

Although COVID-19 changed the availability of on-site learning experiences, NHHC's museums have ensured STEM/STEAM programs continue to present Sailors in the fleet and civilian students with creative opportunities to gain a new

range of skills and learn about naval history.

One of the museums ensuring these programs successfully reach their audience is the Puget Sound Navy Museum (PSNM), located in Bremerton, Wash.

"Creating exceptional, inspiring experiences for learners of all ages is the ultimate goal of the PSNM's Education Department," said Carolyn Lane, Director of Education at PSNM. "Participation in a PSNM STEM/STEAM program will cultivate wonder, build experience and expertise, construct conceptual meaning, and lead to greater understanding of the Navy, its technology, and its mission!"

Lane stated PSNM collaborates with the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF), Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Division (NUWC-Keyport), and local public schools to conduct Navy STEM Days.

"Creating exceptional, inspiring experiences for learners of all ages is the ultimate goal of the PSNM's Education Department."

Carolyn Lane
Director of Education
Puget Sound Naval Museum

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■ History Made for USS Constitution



In a chilly outdoor ceremony on Friday, January 21, 2022, Commander Billie J. Farrell was officially named the 77th Commander of the storied warship USS *Constitution*, becoming the first woman at the ship's helm in its 224-year history.

"I have been humbled by the outpouring support I have received as I embark on this amazing journey," Farrell said in her remarks. "Thank you to the City of Boston for the warm welcome."

Farrell relieved Commander John Benda, the ship's 76th commanding officer, in the ceremony at Charlestown Navy Yard. Other attendees included Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

During his remarks, Benda said the "ship is in great hands," and that he'll always be around to offer his support. He said the spirit "of the hundreds of men that passed" while onboard now lives on in Farrell.

"You are USS *Constitution*. Embrace it. Enjoy it," Benda said. "They are looking down at us right now huzzahing because this ship lives to fight another day."

Farrell, a Paducah, Ky. native, was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy in 2004 and awarded a Master of Science in operations management from the University of Arkansas in 2009. Most recently, she served as executive officer aboard the USS *Vicksburg* in Norfolk, Va.

"I feel honored to have been chosen as the first female [commanding officer] and blessed to be in this role," she said in a previous interview with the *Globe*. "I just really want to show that if somebody wants to do something within the Navy or elsewhere that there [are] always opportunities, and you just have to find them and work hard and set your sights on something and continue to push forward."

The warship, also known as "Old Ironsides," dates back to 1797 and played a crucial role in the War of 1812 and Barbary Wars, according to a statement from the ship's public affairs office.



Historic Naval Ships Association

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

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