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## Back From the Conference



*Ken Newman, USS New Jersey, David Rajkovich, USS Lucid, Janet Cobb, USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park and Robert Corpus, Spirit of '45 dressed in their Hawaiian shirts enjoying the closing banquet of the 2022 HNSA conference on the fantail of USS Missouri.*

Welcome back from the 2022 HNSA conference everyone. It was great seeing all the work going on at *USS Missouri*, our host, and at the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum as they readied *Bowfin* for her yard period. I hope you have all adjusted to your regular sleep schedules. The six hour time jump is still messing with me two weeks later.

We are still working on getting the recordings of the presentations edited and online for those of you who could not attend in person. This was one of the most successful conferences yet and attendees benefitted from a series of presentations dedicated to maintenance and preservation, fundraising and relevance, and project reports from fleet members. I hope you all are able to watch them and apply the principles discussed therein at your museums. In addition to the lectures we got to experience the *Arizona* Memorial after a tour of Pearl Harbor and had some great

networking opportunities at the various receptions.

There were two big announcements at the end of the conference. First, was that next year we will be returning to the East Coast to *USS Slater* in Albany, NY. This is the first time HNSA will be hosted in Albany and we are already making plans. Second, is that HNSA's advocacy work is starting to pay off. Last month Alabama's 1st District Congressman, Jerry Carl (R-AL), established a new bipartisan caucus, the Congressional Museum Ships Caucus. Also Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that will, if passed, authorize \$10,000,000 for the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program for FY 2023, and FY 2024. Be sure to tell your local representatives to support these congressional efforts on behalf of our museum ships.

"Next year we will be returning to the East Coast to *USS Slater* in Albany, NY. This is the first time HNSA will be hosted in Albany."

Ryan Szimanski  
Executive Director  
Historical Naval Ships  
Association

# News Around the Fleet

## ■ *Bowfin* Headed to Dry Dock For Maintenance

It has been an eventful September at the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum. They closed *Bowfin* to the public at the end of the day on Friday, 16 September. Over that weekend, a volunteer working party of Chief Petty Officer selectees prepared *Bowfin* to be towed. The following Monday, 19 September, a Hawaiian blessing was held for their tow and dry dock period. The following day on the 20th, *Bowfin* was unmoored and towed to Honolulu Harbor. She safely entered dry dock at Pacific Shipyards International (PSI) on 21 September.

It will be a busy four weeks in dry dock. PSI has tentatively scheduled the undocking for 19 October, which would mean a return tow to Pearl Harbor on 20/21 October. They will need a few days after returning to the mooring to prepare *Bowfin* to reopen to the public.

Their nationally award-winning Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum and campus will remain open throughout this period from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Watch a time-lapse video** of USS *Bowfin* submarine being towed to Honolulu Harbor earlier this week and placed in dry dock for maintenance.



*The work is expected to last 4-6 weeks with the submarine expected to return to our museum around November.*

# ■ *Nautilus* Reopens to Public After Refurbishment

The world's first nuclear-powered submarine reopened to the public on 9 September, one year after closing for a \$36 million refurbishment.

USS *Nautilus*, a history-making boat and current exhibit at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Connecticut, had been undergoing renovations at the state's Naval Submarine Base New London, where the "ship's wooden deck replacement, repairs to the vessel's superstructure, and restorations to the ship's hull" were performed, the release said.

*Nautilus* also received a new paint job, lighting and electrical upgrades and updates to staff access points, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

A prominent piece of the Navy's history, *Nautilus*, which shares its name with the fictional submarine in Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, was commissioned in 1954. It was not only the world's first nuclear-powered sub, but in 1958, *Nautilus* also became the first submarine to reach the North Pole.

"*Nautilus* revolutionized not only submarine warfare, but all of naval warfare," Samuel Cox, an NHHHC director and curator, said in the release. "The capability to operate virtually indefinitely without need to surface to run diesel engines or recharge batteries gave it an immense tactical advantage.

"Today we forget the



existential nature of the Cold War, which drove the incredible pace at which *Nautilus* was conceived, designed and built, truly a testament to American ingenuity," Cox said.

Among its many noteworthy voyages, *Nautilus* participated in the 1962 quarantine of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The boat was decommissioned in 1980 after 26 years of service. In total, it completed 2,500 dives and traveled 510,000 miles – all fueled by nuclear power. Two years later it would become a National Historic Landmark, and soon after, the official ship for the state of Connecticut.

[SEE EVENT VIDEO](#)

"NHHHC is proud to deliver this vessel back to the public and give future generations an opportunity to see it."

Sam Cox  
NHHHC Director



# ■ NHHHC Presents 2022 Museum Excellence Awards

The annual awards acknowledge the work done by private, nongovernment museums to share with the public the heritage and history of the Navy through exhibits, publications, historical documents, and curation, management and interpretation of artifacts at their facilities. This is the award program's second year.

The 2022 NHHHC Museum Excellence Awards winners include:

## Curatorial Excellence Award

- Battleship *New Jersey* (Large Category)
- Destroyer Escort Historical Museum USS *Slater* (DE 766) (Small Category)

## Maintenance Excellence Award

- USS *Cod* Submarine Memorial (Small Category)
- The Friends of the USS *Cassin Young* (DD 793) (Small Category)

"These museum award winners were selected because of their excellence in telling the Navy's story through various means," said NHHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral. "It is with great appreciation that we recognize these museums for their ability to communicate the rich history of the Navy with the public."

Applicants were judged on their ability to encourage and publicize scholarly, well-researched historical stories that depict the Navy's history and heritage and on their ability to preserve and maintain artifacts on loan from the Navy.

"As supporters of the Navy, its mission, and our shared history, HNSA is proud of the recognition NHHHC is giving our member museums for their hard work in telling the story of the Navy and the American People," said HNSA Executive Director Ryan Szymanski.

The Curatorial Excellence Award recognizes organizations that achieve excellence in the curation of the collections in their care, including maintaining and interpreting Navy artifacts on loan from NHHHC central and local collections.

Battleship *New Jersey* demonstrated excellence in telling compelling and accurate stories of service at sea, specifically through the creation of a new, multilingual exhibit on the Korean War. The new exhibit used a former berthing space to interpret life on the ship for sailors during the Korean conflict, helping to communicate a significant chapter in the heritage of the U.S. Navy to a broader audience.

Destroyer Escort Historical Museum USS *Slater* (DE 766) expanded the museum's educational outreach across various media, which included adding new compartments to the tour route, creating a "Special Collections" tour, expanding the



*(Top) New Jersey won the Curatorial Excellence Award, Large Category; (Left) USS Cassin Young won the Maintenance Excellence Award, Small Category*

virtual tours, updating their website, and initiating a podcast program. The enhancements to the ship's curatorial program allowed outreach efforts to continue throughout the COVID pandemic and a dry-dock maintenance period, which closed the ship to public visitation beginning in July 2020.

The Maintenance Excellence Award is presented to organizations that demonstrate the greatest improvement in material condition over the past year of a macro artifact such as a historic ship or aircraft.

The World War II-era submarine USS *Cod* (SS 224) demonstrated great improvement in material condition when it dry docked for the first time in 58 years to preserve the underwater portion of its hull. Because of the work done during the maintenance period, *Cod* will be able to convey its history to the public through at least 2041.

The Friends of the USS *Cassin Young* (DD 793) was recognized for excellence in preservation of the ship, specifically for major restorations of the forward berthing areas. The work completed resulted in the complete restoration of the berthing compartment to near-original condition, allowing the public to gain a better understanding of the living condition of Sailors manning the ship.

For a detailed list of eligibility requirements and other information on the awards program, please visit [HERE](#).

## ■ Orleck Opening to the Public

The USS Orleck will finally open to the public on Wednesday, September 28.

Volunteers have been working on the ship since March.

It is a landmark piece for Jacksonville Naval Museum. You'll be able to walk through the small corridors and stand next to weapons used in World War II.

You can check out the status board or tour the bridge.

The USS Orleck also has a radar scope, but some parts were removed and used as props in the Tom Hanks World War II movie

'Greyhound'.

As for location, you'll find the USS Orleck in front of the Hyatt Riverfront in downtown Jacksonville. The ship has an agreement with the city to be there until the end of September.

Their permanent home is just down the river where the new fire museum will be, but Justin Weakland, Vice president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, is hoping it'll stay in the spot by the Main Street Bridge for another year.

"We love the idea of down there the park plan. The MOSH moved



down there. The fire museum will be there," Weakland said. "Then it will be just this great area of museums and activity, but its just not there yet right? So we need a way for our

visitors to get on the ship."

## ■ LST 325 Docked in Ashland, Kentucky

A piece of WWII's history was docked at the port of Ashland in Kentucky from 15-18 September, and locals were able to go see it.

Some Olive Hill Elementary fifth-graders got a special tour

Capt. Bob Kubota led the kids to see the last fully-functioning landing ship tank in the country.

The ship was used to place troops and cargo onto beaches during World War II.

The inside is now a museum of the ship's history, and everything in the ship still works. The fifth-graders looked with wonder in their eyes as Capt. Kubota led them through history.

"He taught us about weapons, guns, basically the whole entire boat," said fifth-grader Michael Carroll.

"I really liked the beds they showed us and how they kept the

stuff that was there in WWII," said fifth-grader Hadli Maggard.

Their enthusiasm is why Capt. Kubota loves touring with kids.

"They ask a whole lot more questions," Kubota said.

"How did they do it? How did they sail this thing off to sea? That had to be tough," Carroll said. "I'm guessing there wasn't that much food, or something."

"I think their teacher had studied with them that they were at least familiar with what an LST was and with a lot of WWII," Kubota said.

LST sailors decades ago wanted the legacy of the ship to live on, so they brought one back from Greece and have since sailed it to different cities every year.

"They thought that there should be memories of these ships,



that they all shouldn't disappear," Kubota said. "So, it's like bringing the museum to the people instead of bringing the people to the museum."

"I think it's important because it's a part of history and people need to learn about this because people put their life on the line to give our country freedom, and other countries freedom," Maggard said.

"One day I want to be in the army," Carroll said. "That's what I want to do."

LST 325 was docked in Ashland from 15-18 Sept.

LST 325 then traveled to dock in Charleston from Sept. 21-25 across from the Four Points Hotel (600 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25301).

## ■ Visitor Reviewed Freedom Park With Photography



One wouldn't expect to find a naval museum in Nebraska, of all places, but this park is located on the Missouri River. Run by a nonprofit, it is only open a few hours one day a week, and it's pretty apparent they don't have a lot of \$\$\$ to work with. But they have some interesting stuff to see, mostly Cold War era.

[LOOK AT THE PHOTO DIARY](#)

[FREEDOM PARK ON SOCIAL MEDIA](#)

## ■ Royal Navy Museum Receives 8,000 Artifacts

The Royal Navy has formally transferred ownership of the objects recovered from the 18th Century wreck of HMS *Invincible* in the Solent.

The ship foundered after running into a sandbank off Eastney in 1758, leading to her wreck being forgotten until fisherman Arthur Mack snagged his nets on her in 1979.

A wide variety of items have been raised from the wreck site, including *Invincible's* rudder, tobacco pipes, hair curlers, shoes, plates, and tankards.

Even after the passage of more than 250 years since she sank, the shipwreck and her objects had remained the property of the Crown - until now.

The Royal Navy has decided to give all of the items to the National Museum of the Royal Navy, which is based in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard and has branches in Chatham and Hartlepool, which will preserve, curate and display the ship's many treasures.

Many more will be preserved in the archive in Portsmouth, where they were shown to Brigadier Jock Fraser RM, the Royal Navy's deputy director of heritage, as he signed the 'deed of gift', the document transferring ownership.

He said: 'HMS *Invincible* and her artifacts fill a 'missing link' in naval history between the 16th and 18th Centuries.'

'The unique collection allows



*Member of staff from The National Museum of Royal Navy and Brigadier Jock Fraser MBE ADC signing the 'deed of gift' document.*



*Member of staff from The National Museum of Royal Navy showing a historic artifact to Brigadier Jock Fraser MBE ADC.*

visitors to the travelling exhibition in Chatham - and other locations - to learn about this fascinating chapter in our naval history.

'It was a real privilege to be able to observe some of the artifacts under preservation by the museum staff so they can join the remainder of the collection once this highly-skilled work is complete. The Royal Navy is proud to work with the National Museum of the Royal Navy to ensure that our naval maritime heritage is preserved for future generations.'

Dominic Tweddle, director general of the National Museum, said the transfer of the *Invincible* artefacts was 'a special day'.

He continued: 'The handover concludes a remarkable project,

Diving Deep, over three dive seasons to excavate, recover, conserve and publicly display material from the wreck.'

Some of the objects recovered are currently being displayed at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

# ■ USS *Halyburton* Could Find a Home in Erie

A retired Navy admiral is spearheading an effort to bring his former Navy frigate to the shores of Erie. He said it will be a great addition to our already rich maritime history.

The USS *Halyburton* could be docked in Erie by 2024, but there are still steps the Oliver Hazard Perry Shipyard has to take to acquire it.

The Oliver Hazard Perry Shipyard will be submitting phase two of its application to the U.S. Navy to bring USS *Halyburton* to Erie this week.

"That application will go to the Navy for review, and they will do their due diligence. I would think it would take several months before we hear back from the Navy about whether we're successful or not. From there, phase three is six months, and after that, we wait and hope," said Joe Pfadt, executive director and CEO of the Oliver Hazard Perry Shipyard.

Rear Admiral Robert Reilly Jr. made a stop in Erie to advocate for the ship he served on to come here.

"For us that serve on these types of vessels, it's their home, and when you go overseas, you do some amazing things. It's a small city, so when you hear about an initiative like this, it's not hard to get involved," said Robert Reilly Jr., rear admiral of the U.S. Navy retired.

With so much maritime history already in Erie, the admiral said the USS *Halyburton* will only add to its history.

"When the ship arrives in Erie, you are going to have an example of the way the Navy operates today. It was decommissioned in 2014, so it's relatively young," Reilly added.

The admiral said something unique for Erie is that the ship will have its own shipyard with Donjon Shipbuilding being along the bayfront.

"I understand from OHPS, that *Halyburton* can be accommodated in the ship's drydock which is a big deal, because every once in a while, you've got to paint the bottom and make sure they're no leaks," said Reilly.



*The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Halyburton (FFG 40) performs work-ups off the coast of Mayport, Fla., Feb. 13, 2006.*



*An elevated port bow view of the battleship USS Iowa (BB 61) as it refuels the guided missile frigate USS Halyburton (FFG 40) during an underway replenishment. The ships are participating in NATO Exercise Ocean Safari '85.*

## ■ Wreck of USS *Jacob Jones* Discovered

The USS *Jacob Jones*, the first U.S. destroyer to be sunk by enemy fire, has been found.

The wreckage of the World War I destroyer was discovered Aug. 11 by members of the UK diving team Darkstar 60 miles south of Newlyn, Cornwall, Darkstar team member Steve Mortimer announced in a Facebook post. The Naval History and Heritage Command also announced the discovery on Twitter.

"Nothing was removed from the wreck site and we will be liaising with the US Embassy over next steps," Mortimer wrote.

The *Tucker*-class destroyer (DD 61) was commissioned Feb. 10, 1916, and deployed to Europe on May 7, 1917, roughly a month after the U.S. entered WWI.

The ship was involved with several rescue operations that year, according to the Navy. After the British steamship *Valetta* was sunk by U-boat fire in July, the *Jacob Jones* picked up 44 survivors. That same month, the British steamer *Dafila* was sunk by a torpedo while being escorted by the *Jacob Jones*, which rescued 25 survivors. The *Jacob Jones* picked up another 305 survivors from torpedoed British cruiser *Orama* while conducting escort duty between Ireland and France.

The *Jacob Jones* was struck by a torpedo on Dec. 6, 1917, 25 miles southeast of Bishop Rock, Scilly Islands, and 20 miles east of Start Point, England, while en route from Brest, France, to Queenstown, Ireland. The destroyer sank eight minutes after it was hit with two officers and 62 men still onboard, according to the Navy.

Two injured survivors were taken prisoner by the attacking German submarine *U-53*, which surfaced soon after the sinking. The survivors floated on life rafts, boats and drifting debris as British sloop-of-



war *Camellia* and British liner *Catalina* conducted rescue operations overnight.

Out of a crew of 110, 64 men died. Lt. Stanton F. Kalk, officer-of-the-deck when the torpedo hit, died of exhaustion and exposure while helping his crewmates onto lifeboats, and was posthumously awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. Chief Boatswain's Mate Harry Gibson and Chief Electrician's Mate L. J. Kelly received the Navy Cross as well as letters of commendation along with Chief Boatswain's Mate Charles Charlesworth, according to the Navy.



## 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