

Contact:

Serge Sarandinaki
Vice President, TSPF
Media@TallShipProvidence.org
(571) 882-9314

PRESS RELEASE

Old Town's Waterfront Redevelopment Includes Replica Of U.S. Navy's First Warship



Alexandria, Virginia - September 8, 2017 – At the foot of King Street will be docked the *Providence*, a 110 foot, twelve-gun sloop-of-war, and full-scale replica of the Continental Navy's first warship. The Tall Ship Providence Foundation, a new non-profit in Alexandria, is acquiring the *Providence*, and seeking to rehabilitate her for educational maritime heritage programs at Old Town Alexandria's waterfront after she arrives in early summer 2019.

The non-profit will host public tours, chartered cruises, and historical seminars, as well as other educational programs. In order to accomplish this goal, the non-profit is focusing its efforts on fundraising and seeking capital contribution support; the organization's first fundraiser, *The Founder's Circle Reception*, will be held on September 11 in Old Town.

Initial fundraising efforts are targeted to support the 16 month restoration of the ship in order to ensure historical accuracy and bring it to sailing condition. Master Shipwright Leon Poindexter is leading this project and has over 40 years of traditional shipbuilding experience; his experience includes restoring the gun deck on the *U.S.S. Constitution* and working on the ships used in 20th Century Fox's Academy Award winning film *Master and Commander*, starring Russell Crowe.

Tall Ship Providence Foundation's

- **Mission** is to promote maritime, naval, and American Revolutionary War history
- **Vision** is to facilitate educational programs and events for the community and visitors

Interesting Ship Facts:

- Built in the late 1700's by the Brown family, (*Brown University*), and became the Continental Navy's first warship.
- The *Providence's* first mission in the American Revolution was to clear the Chesapeake Bay of enemy British ships.
- John Paul Jones, father of the U.S. Navy, had the ship as his first command.
- The ship deployed Marines on their first amphibious assault on foreign soil.
- The original ship was scuttled in 1779 to keep her from falling into British hands after the failed Penobscot Expedition.
- The same Brown family commissioned her exact replica to be built for the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.
- The *Providence* was used in the filming of *The Pirates of the Caribbean*

For additional information, visit www.TallShipProvidence.org or follow us on Twitter [@TSPProvidence](https://twitter.com/TSPProvidence)

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