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What's Happening on the Showboat?



Tickets are still available for the Friends' inaugural "Salute to the Battleship" that will be held October 14 on the fantail of Battleship *North Carolina*. The event begins at 6 p.m. and will feature a variety of hors d'oeuvres and beverages, with the Brunswick Big Band providing live music to entertain guests.

Don't miss this first-of-a-kind fundraising event benefitting the Friends' efforts to *Help Preserve the Legacy* as we salute the most highly decorated U.S. battleship of World War II and the men who served aboard her.

Tickets for Salute to the Battleship are \$60 per person for Friends members and \$75 for non-members and can be purchased on the Friends website by [clicking here](#).

Friends Annual Meeting – The Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* held their annual meeting on **September 17**. Michael Zalob, Chair of the Friends board of directors, presided over the meeting and provided the members in attendance with an overview of Friends' activities and achievements of the past year.



During the meeting, three new directors were elected to the board – Dave Hoyt, Roger Weigold, and John Whitley. In addition, six current directors were re-elected to serve additional two-year terms – Pat Cummings, Alex Dydula, Geoff Kirby, Jeff Mixon, Karen Marzilli, and Richard Rogers.

Zalob, who had served on the board since being elected in 2012, was ineligible to be re-elected. In stepping down from the board and his duties as Chair, Zalob pointed to some of the recent successes the Friends have realized, especially as we emerge out of the current Covid environment.

"Now, the Friends have record membership and income," Zalob noted, "and tours and events are up."

"It's because of you," he continued, focusing his comments on the directors, "a board of active, committed, and involved members."

"Thank you all for making me look good," Zalob said in closing. "Thank you for elevating the Friends to a new level. Thank you for helping to fulfill the Friends' mission."

During a short meeting of the new board of directors that followed the annual meeting, new board officers were



Friends board chair Ron Henderson (r) presents outgoing chair Michael Zalob with a Certificate of Appreciation.

elected. Ron Henderson was elected as the new chair, John Whitley as vice chair, and Jeff Mixon and Ronnie Rhodes were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively.

A full listing of the board of directors can be found on the last page of this edition of *Scuttlebutt*.

Fall Battleship Class – The Fall session of the Battleship Ambassador and Tour Guide training course is set to begin on October 15. Led by retired Navy Rear Admiral Ron Henderson, the training will take place over six consecutive Saturdays in the Admiral’s Cabin on the Battleship. The sessions will promptly begin at 9 a.m.

The course, part of The Captain Ben Blee Memorial Volunteer Training Program, is the first step for those interested in becoming Ambassador/Docents and Tour Guides. It is also ideal for those who just want to learn more about the Showboat, her systems, history, and the men who served aboard her.

If you are interested in attending the Fall session, please send an email to scuttlebutt1@battleshipncfriends.com.

Honoring Their Service – The Friends of the Battleship are excited to offer a unique way to honor veterans and active duty service members during the coming holiday season. The Friends’ *Wreaths of Honor* program will provide individuals an opportunity to purchase a holiday

wreath for \$35 and have it placed for display on the lifelines of Battleship North Carolina in honor of a veteran or active duty service member.

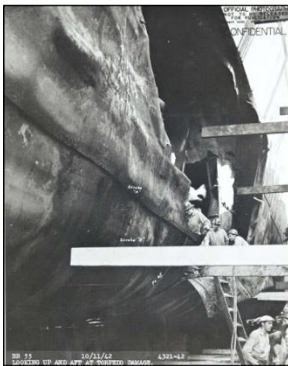


wreath(s) via email after it has been placed on the lifelines.

Wreaths will be put into place on December 7 and will remain on the lifelines until January 7. Orders for the *Wreaths of Honor* will be taken beginning in mid-October through the Friends website.

Mast Work Wrapping Up – After nearly ten months of work, the repairs being done to the foremast and upper superstructure are nearing completion. Scaffolding should begin to be disassembled once any final painting and touch-ups are completed in the next few weeks. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

This Month in Showboat History



Having made temporary repairs to the damage caused by the **September 15, 1942** torpedo attack, USS *North Carolina* transited from the Tongan island of Tongatabu to Pearl Harbor, arriving there on **September 30**. It wasn’t until **October 10**, that *North Carolina* was able to enter the dry dock, delayed by USS *South Dakota’s* (BB 57) need for emergent repairs after the new battleship’s bottom had been damaged by a coral head in late August.

While repairing the damage caused by the torpedo hit was at the top of the list while in dry dock, work was also done on all four propellers and shafts. Also accomplished during the repair period was the removal of the four quadruple mount 1.1-inch guns and all 28 of the Browning .50-caliber machine guns. In their place, 10 Bofors quadruple barreled 40-mm gun mounts were installed and six additional Oerlikon 20-mm guns were added bringing the total number of Oerlikons onboard to 46.

The Showboat was again in Pearl Harbor in **October 1943**, this time principally for ship maintenance as well as crew rest and relaxation. There were two significant changes to the ship’s configuration during the yard period – the installation of five additional quadruple barreled 40-mm gun mounts and the fabrication of a platform around Batt Two that would become known as “Stryker’s Bridge.”



On **October 1, 1944**, USS *North Carolina* completed a 60-day overhaul at the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Bremerton, Washington. In addition to the basic overhaul of engineering, fire control, and other shipboard systems, a new Combat Information Center was installed on the 03 level below the Navigation Bridge (CIC had been collocated within Main Battery Plot on the 1st Platform before the move to the 03 level.)

CBDR*

Upcoming events on *The Showboat*

Salute to the Battleship

October 14
6 p.m. Fantail
[Buy Tickets](#)

Battleship 101

October 8

6 for 60 Tours

November 5
December 3

Raise the Flag

November 5

Hidden Battleship

November 12
40 participant limit
[Buy Tickets](#)



*Constant Bearing, Decreasing Range

During the overhaul period, the Showboat's crew also had the opportunity to take leave for the first time since leaving in June of 1942. All members of the crew were granted 25 days of leave, with only half the crew being allowed to be gone at any one time.

Upon completion of the overhaul, *North Carolina* spent ten days training in the Southern California operations area before making the transit back to Pearl Harbor. By October 30 the Showboat was back in the South Pacific and ready for action.

In **October 1945**, with the war having ended the month before, the Showboat was headed home. Passing through the Panama Canal on **October 11**, USS *North Carolina* arrived to a hero's welcome in Boston on **October 17**.



Oct. 11, 1945 - The Showboat transits the Panama Canal.

On **October 2, 1961**, thanks largely to the efforts of James S. Craig and Hugh Morton, along with the contributions of thousands of school children and citizens, the battleship *North Carolina* arrived in Wilmington to become a permanent memorial to not only the men who served on her but to all the men and women who served in the Armed Forces during World War II and to the more than 11,000 North Carolinians who gave their lives during the war.



Oct. 2, 1961 - Battleship North Carolina is nudged into position at her new Wilmington home.

On **October 14**, less than two weeks after being tied up at her new berth on the west shore of the Cape Fear River, the first members of the public were welcomed aboard the teak decks of Battleship *North Carolina*.

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Every Thursday is **BATTLESHIP THURSDAY** Show your support. Wear your "Showboat" gear.

Did You Know?

The engineer responsible for berthing the Battleship *Texas* (BB 35) near Houston, Cyril Adams, was enlisted to help determine whether *North Carolina* could safely make the transit up the Cape Fear River. He was also hired to draw up the plans for dredging the berth the Showboat now occupies.

Though most would agree that having *North Carolina* moored parallel to the shore of the Cape Fear would have been an impressive sight, especially from a downtown Wilmington vantage point, Adams' plan had the ship being moored perpendicular to the shore. According to Adams, mooring parallel to the shore would only allow the ship to be secured on one side while if mooring perpendicular to the shore, you could secure it from both sides of the ship.



The berth for Battleship *North Carolina* is dredged in anticipation of an October 1961 Wilmington arrival.

Adams also noted that with the Cape Fear being a tidal river, mooring *North Carolina* parallel to the shore might create challenges as the ship could be subject to a list to the secured side as the river level changed with the tidal cycles. Based on Adams' recommendations and plans, the battleship's berth was prepared perpendicular to the shore.

On **September 25, 1961**, just days before *North Carolina* began her journey from New Jersey, James Craig, the man who had the original vision of a grand battleship memorial in Wilmington, took advantage of the opportunity offered to him to fly with the Army's Golden Knights parachute team during an air show at Wilmington's airport. Craig wanted to take aerial photos of the berth that would become the new home of the battleship due to arrive the following week.



As the Air Force C-123 transporting the Golden Knights attempted a jet-assisted takeoff it stalled and crashed to the ground at the airport. Three of the aircrew were killed in the crash and Craig was severely burned. Craig was flown to the burn center at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas where he died from his injuries on October 14, the day Battleship *North Carolina* welcomed aboard the first members of the public since arriving at her Wilmington home.

Supporting the Showboat

Help Preserve the Legacy – Like the thousands of dimes collected by North Carolina's school children to save the Showboat in 1961, donations made to the Friends of the Battleship *Help Preserve the Legacy* of the majestic ship and the men who served in her. Whether it's ten cents or ten dollars, your continued support allows us to provide funding to assist, promote, and perpetuate the educational and restoration efforts on Battleship *North Carolina*.



Friends of the Battleship <i>North Carolina</i> 2023 Board of Directors			
Ron Henderson <i>Chair</i>	John Whitley <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jeff Mixon <i>Secretary</i>	Ronnie Rhodes <i>Treasurer</i>
Jim Buell	Joe Calla	Pat Cummings	Alex Dydula
Nancie Giacalone	Dave Hoyt	Gordon Hume	Geoff Kirby
Karen Marzilli	John Munn	Richard Rogers	Bruce Tingle
Richard Turner	Roger Weigold	Frank Glossl - <i>Executive Director</i>	

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