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What's Happening on the Showboat?

Effort to Honor Veteran Service Underway – The Friends recently launched the “Wreaths of Honor” program, providing a unique way to honor the service of veterans and active duty service members. For just \$35, a 20-inch evergreen holiday wreath that will be placed for display on the lifelines of Battleship *North Carolina*, can be purchased. The wreaths will be decorated with ribbon and a card displaying the name, branch of service, and years served of the individual being honored. A photograph of the wreath will be emailed to the purchaser after it has been placed on the lifelines. The wreaths will be on display from December 7 through January 7.



Wreaths of Honor can be ordered online by visiting the Friends' website at battleshipncfriends.com or by [clicking here](#). Orders must be placed by November 21.

Proceeds from the sale of the Wreaths of Honor benefit the Friends' effort to *Help Preserve the Legacy* by providing funding for programs, acquisitions, and restoration of Battleship *North Carolina*.

Mast Repair Completed – It was over ten months ago that a complex matrix of pipe, netting, and stairs was erected around the upper section of Battleship *North Carolina's* forward superstructure. So, there was great anticipation when the scaffolding was finally removed in

mid-October, signaling the completion of a much-needed repair and refurbishment of the foremast and upper levels of the superstructure. The repair work was necessary after record-breaking rainfall and catastrophic sustained winds associated with Hurricanes Florence and Michael accelerated normal rates of corrosion on the Battleship's more than 80-year-old exterior steel structures.

During the mast repair project, it had been necessary to restrict access to areas above the main deck and along much of the Battleship's port side. With the scaffolding gone, access to the upper decks was again possible, providing visitors the opportunity to visit the pilot house, CIC, signal bridge, and a variety of other command and control spaces.

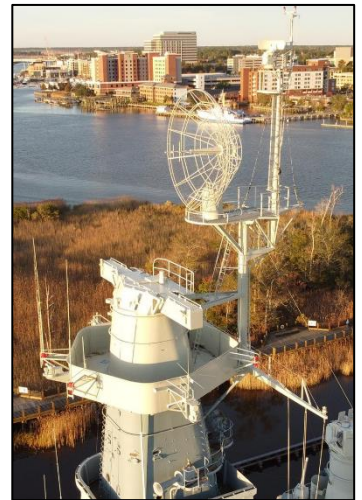


Photo by Ted Powers

The repairs were supported by a grant awarded through a Congressional Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund appropriated to the National Park Service. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office received more than \$17 million of the funds, of which Battleship *North Carolina* received \$1 million for the mast repair.

CBDR*

Upcoming events on *The Showboat*

6 for 60 Tours

November 5
December 3

Raise the Flag

November 5

Hidden Battleship

4. Participant limit
Sold Out!

Battleship Ho, Ho, Ho

November 25

Wreaths of Honor

On Display
December 7 – January 7
Available for purchase now



*Constant Bearing, Decreasing Range

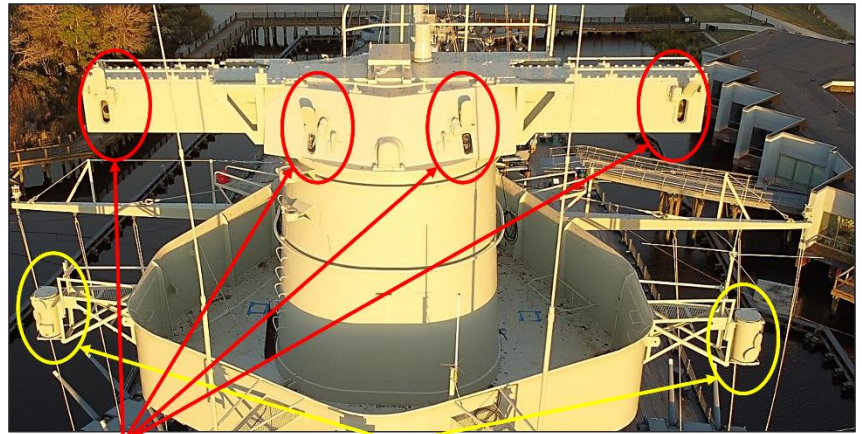
The Year in Funding and Support – With the Friends' fiscal year ending September 30, a review of how the organization kept to its mission of providing support to Battleship *North Carolina* over the past year is being provided to keep the Friends membership up-to-date on our efforts.

In addition to logging a large portion of the thousands of volunteer hours provided in support of Battleship programs by providing guided tours, offering visitor support on the ship and in the Visitor Center, accomplishing maintenance, restoration, and cleaning, and conducting archive research and documentation, the Friends provided direct funding support for various projects and efforts.

Projects funded by the Friends during the year include:

- **Replication of two "Nancy" beacon fixtures** (infrared signal lights) – The original "Nancy" fixtures were removed from their outboard brackets on the 010 level at the beginning of the mast repair project. The decision was made to have replicas of the fixtures manufactured that could be replaced in the original locations while reducing maintenance requirements but preserving the visual integrity of the installation.

- **Glass lenses for Spot 1** – Four glass lenses in the two telescope ports and two range finder windows on the forward Mark 38 main battery director (Spot 1) were replaced while contractors refurbished and repaired the directors during the mast repair project.



(Top) New "Nancy" beacons (yellow) and glass lenses (red) installed on upper superstructure. (Below) Close up of range finder window (l), replica Nancy beacons (c), and original beacon (r).

- **1MC system repair** – The general announcing system throughout the ship is known as the 1MC. An ongoing project by a group of volunteers is to return the 1MC to working order in the areas of the public tour route. Where the system has been restored, visitors may hear music from the period playing, or examples of general announcements that may have been heard when USS *North Carolina* was in operation.

- The Wednesday Maintenance Gang and the Cleaning Crew are made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who regularly show up on the Battleship to take care of the many maintenance, restoration, and cleaning tasks that help to make Battleship *North Carolina* one of the premier attractions in the region. The Friends helped support their efforts by providing **funding for some select equipment and tools** to help make their work a bit less challenging.

- Providing access to the wealth of data, historical information, and photographs stored in the Battleship's archives is made possible, in part, through the Friends ongoing **funding of the Past Perfect Online Collections Database**.



An updated Ship Store #1 open for business.

- Like Ship Store #2, which was updated in 2020, volunteers Charlie and Sue Jones spearheaded the **update to Ship Store #1** (next to the Post Office) with the assistance of the Wednesday Gang. Researching invoices, photographs, and other archival materials, the Joneses searched out and acquired authentic product packaging, but if it wasn't available, recreated accurate reproductions of the products that would have been available to *North Carolina* sailors during the war.

- Always looking for opportunities to enhance the experience of Showboat visitors, the Battleship's Curator developed a new display in the **Sick Bay Battle Dressing Station**. Funding the necessary supplies and materials for the new display was another part of the Friends' overall effort to support the Battleship.

- Providing information along the tour route to help guests understand and appreciate the area being visited can be a never-ending effort. The Friends stepped up this past year to assist the Curator in that effort by **funding the printing and shipping for new interpretive signs** on the outside portion of the public tour route.

- During Covid, when the public health regulations required masks to be worn while touring interior spaces of the Battleship and Visitors Center, the Friends **purchased hundreds of disposable masks** to help ensure visitors did not lose the opportunity to tour the Battleship due to the lack of them having appropriate face coverings.



Members of the "Wednesday Gang" install some of the new interpretive signs along the public tour route.



Volunteers Daymon Powell and Michael Zalobman the Friends tent at the Belville Fall Festival.

- One part of the Friends' mission is to help educate the public about the Battleship and the Friends organization through community outreach. To assist us in that effort, the Friends **purchased a canopy tent for use at various community events** in Wilmington, Southport, Leland, and Belville.

- Finally, so much of what is accomplished at Battleship *North Carolina* would not be possible without the dedication of the scores of volunteers and ship employees. The Friends were proud to **fund volunteer appreciation events** for those volunteers as well as provide **funding for the special recognition** of some of the outstanding ship employees.

And the effort continues. Already in progress for this year is a project to replace over 70 switch plates in the Main and Secondary Plot switchboard spaces. The switch plates are being replicated through a 3-D printing process similar to what was previously done when switch plates were replaced in the Turret #2 gun house. With manufacturing near complete, the new switch covers should be installed within the next few weeks.

It would be difficult for the Friends to provide the support listed above if not for the commitment that you, our members, have made to Battleship *North Carolina* through your annual membership, donations, and support. We look forward to moving ahead as the Friends continue to *Help Preserve the Legacy*.

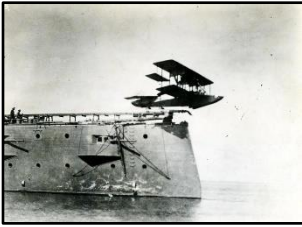
Have Company for the Holidays? – Looking for something to do with family and friends while they visit during the holidays? How about bringing them to explore the Showboat. Battleship *North Carolina* is open every day of the year from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the entire self-guided public tour route open for visitors to explore. And if you would like to enrich the experience, consider booking a guided tour for your visitors. Guided tours are available on most days when booked in advance and can be purchased online by [clicking here](#).

GIVING TUESDAY

November 29, 2022



This Month in USS *North Carolina* History



LCDR Mustin is catapulted off USS *North Carolina* (ACR 12).

The first aircraft to be successfully launched by catapult from an underway U.S. Navy ship was achieved on **November 5, 1915**, off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, by the armored cruiser USS *North Carolina* (ACR 12). The launch was piloted by Lt. Cdr. Henry Mustin, one of the Navy's first designated aviators, in a Curtiss AB-2 Seaplane. Mustin, who led the development of the catapult launch system, was an outspoken proponent of the potential of naval aviation and is considered by many to be the "father of naval aviation."

The successful catapult launch was not be the only time the name Mustin would be associated with a ship named *North Carolina*. See "Did You Know" below.

Back Into the Fight – USS *North Carolina* moved out of the dry dock in Pearl Harbor on **November 9, 1942**, having completed repairs to the port side that had been damaged during the September torpedo attack by the Japanese submarine I-19. On **November 17**, barely two months after the torpedo attack, the Showboat got underway from Pearl Harbor, conducted gunnery exercises with her newly installed gun mounts (the four 1.1-inch guns had been replaced by 10 Bofors quadruple 40-mm gun mounts while at Pearl Harbor), and started her transit back to the South Pacific, arriving on November 26 at Nadi, Fiji. USS *North Carolina* had returned, ready to get back into the fight.

A year later, on **November 10, 1943**, the Showboat was again returning to the South Pacific, having completed another repair availability in Pearl Harbor. This time *North Carolina* made the transit south as part of Task Force 50 that included the carriers *Enterprise* (CV 6), *Yorktown* (CV 10), *Lexington* (CV 16), *Monterey* (CV 26), *Belleau Wood* (CVL 24), and *Cowpens* (CVL 25); and the battleships *Indiana* (BB 58) and *Massachusetts* (BB 59).


The task force was among the American forces in the Pacific that would battle to retake the Gilbert Islands. U.S. Army forces were tasked with taking the Makin Atoll while the 2nd Marine Division landed at Tarawa, facing heavy opposition from the Japanese. U.S. carrier aircraft supported the landing forces, with battleships providing both gunfire support as well as air defense for the carriers.



A night attack while supporting Gilbert Island operations in November 1943.

Air strikes began November 19, and continued for 10 days in an effort to aid Marines ashore who were engaged in what would be some of the bloodiest fighting of the war in the Pacific. At the same time, the U.S. naval forces experienced air attacks from a large number of Japanese torpedo bombers.


November 1944 – Having just returned from her overhaul at Puget Sound Navy Yard, USS *North Carolina* spent much of November supporting operations in the Philippine Sea. It was during those operations that a new tactic was unveiled by the Japanese – pilots conducting suicide attacks by flying their planes directly at and into aircraft carriers and other capital ships. Attacks by these "Kamikaze" pilots were difficult to defend against and were costly to both Japanese and American forces.



A unique way to honor their service

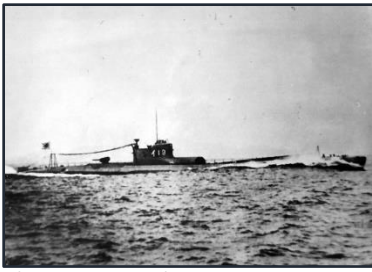
Find out more
battleshipncfriends.com/donate

Presented by



Did You Know?

The World War II destroyer *USS Mustin* (DD 413) was named for the pioneer naval aviator Captain Henry Mustin and was commissioned on **September 15, 1939**. USS *Mustin* was a member of the task group centered on the carrier USS *Hornet* (CV 8) that was operating in company with the USS *Wasp* (CV 7) task group on **September 15, 1942**. One of the six torpedoes fired from the Japanese submarine I-19 passed directly astern of *Mustin* and went on to hit the port side of USS *North Carolina*.



The Japanese submarine I-19.

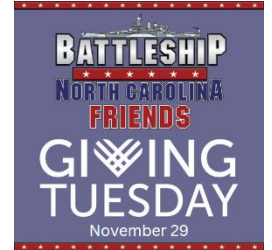
The **Japanese submarine I-19** escaped after its September 1942 attack on the American fleet. During the year that followed, the I-19 participated in several night-time missions to resupply, reinforce, and eventually evacuate Japanese forces on Guadalcanal. It also helped to wreak havoc on the allied logistics chain in the region.

The I-19 arrived to its day of destiny on **November 25, 1943**, while operating west of Makin Island during the Gilbert Island operations. The destroyer USS *Radford* (DD 446) detected and pursued the Japanese submarine, attacking it with depth charges. The attack by the *Radford* resulted in the loss of the I-19 and its crew of nearly 100 men.

Supporting the Showboat

November 29 is Giving Tuesday – For the past decade, the Tuesday immediately following Thanksgiving has been designated as “Giving Tuesday.” Established to counter the frantic shopping days following Thanksgiving (Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, etc.), Giving Tuesday is meant to encourage people to give back to their community and favorite causes.

Please consider donating to Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* this Giving Tuesday as we continue to *Help Preserve the Legacy*.



Looking for a Gift Idea? – Determining the perfect gift for that special someone is always a challenge this time of the year. And with the challenges brought on by increasing prices and decreasing confidence in product availability and shipping promises, why not consider the gift of an experience by purchasing a membership to the Friends of the Battleship.



Membership provides unlimited access to Battleship *North Carolina* for a year, free tickets to watch the City of Wilmington’s July 4th Fireworks Display from the decks of the Showboat, as well as discounts on tours, programs, and in the Visitor Center Ship Store. Simply [click here](#) to buy the perfect gift for your Battleship enthusiast.

If it’s a unique clothing item you are looking for, what about a Friends of the Battleship shirt or sweatshirt. [Click here](#) to purchase Friends merchandise through our e-store.



Regardless the gift, know that your purchase and support *Help Preserve the Legacy* of USS *North Carolina* for future generations.

Make me Smile – And don’t forget, if you do your holiday shopping online at Amazon, consider designating Friends of the Battleship *North Carolina* as the charitable organization to receive donations through the AmazonSmile program. For all eligible purchases, AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of your purchases to the Friends.

For the quarter ending June 30, the latest quarter available, purchases made by Friends members accounted for \$176.49 in donations, bringing the total of AmazonSmile donations to \$335.48 in the first six months of 2022.

It’s easy to sign up. Find out how by clicking the button below.

smile.amazon.com

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