

107 Point Laurel Place  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
14 January 2026

**The Honorable John Phelan**

Secretary of the Navy  
Office of the Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I respectfully request that the U.S. Navy consider naming a future ship **USS *Yorktown*** and that you announce the decision to do so on **Yorktown Day, 19 October 2026**, during ceremonies commemorating the victory of French and American forces over the British at Yorktown, Virginia, on 19 October 1781.

The victory at Yorktown was the culminating battle of the American Revolution, ensuring American independence from Great Britain. In recognition of this achievement, the U.S. Navy has previously named five ships *USS Yorktown*:

1. **USS Yorktown (Sloop of War), 1840–1850**  
Type: 16-gun sloop-of-war  
Launched: 1839  
Commissioned: 1840  
Wrecked in 1850
2. **USS Yorktown (Gunboat), 1889–1919**  
Type: Gunboat (PG-1)  
Launched: 1888  
Commissioned: 1889  
Decommissioned in 1919
3. **USS Yorktown (CV-5), 1937–1942**  
Type: Aircraft carrier  
Commissioned: 1937  
Lost at the Battle of Midway, June 1942
4. **USS Yorktown (CV-10), 1943–1970**  
Type: Essex-class aircraft carrier

Commissioned: 1943

Decommissioned: 1970; now preserved as a museum

5. **USS Yorktown (CG-48), 1984–2004**

Type: Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser

Commissioned: 1984

Decommissioned: 2004; noted for early AEGIS system integration

There are two compelling reasons for my request. First, naming another Navy ship *USS Yorktown* would be a fitting continuation of the Navy's longstanding tradition of honoring the patriots who fought so valiantly in 1781. Second, announcing the Navy's intent on **19 October 2026** would be a meaningful and inspiring way to commemorate the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**. Such an action would undoubtedly meet with broad public support and generate significant goodwill toward the Navy.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to a favorable decision regarding this request.

Very respectfully,

Frances Goodwin Holt  
Retired Civil Servant of Navy

Copy to:

Yorktown Day Committee 2026  
Colonial National Historical Park  
Board of Supervisors of York County, VA  
The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown  
The York County Historical Museum  
USS Yorktown CG-48 Association  
USS Yorktown CV-10 Association  
Senator Mark Warner  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Representative Jen Kiggans  
General Assembly of Virginia  
Governor of Virginia