



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

February 3, 2026

Ms. Sheila S. Noll  
Chairman, York County Board of Supervisors  
224 Ballard St  
P.O. Box 532  
Yorktown, VA 23690-0532

Dear Ms. Noll:

Thank you for your letter requesting that a future ship be named USS YORKTOWN.

The naming of a future USS YORKTOWN during the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be a profoundly symbolic act, bridging the birth of the republic with its future. To bestow this name upon a modern warship during the semiquincentennial would not only honor the original battle but also the unbroken lineage of service and sacrifice embodied by all previous USS YORKTOWN vessels and their crews. It would serve as a powerful testament to the enduring legacy of the U.S. Navy and a recommitment to the very ideals of liberty and self-determination that were won on the fields of Yorktown two and a half centuries ago.

The naming of a naval ship is one of the highest honors our nation can bestow. On behalf of the Department of the Navy, I am privileged to receive numerous suggestions from veterans, Service Members, and citizens across the country. In making a selection, I am guided by the hallowed traditions of the naval service to honor states, cities, distinguished Service Members, national heroes, and foundational American ideals that inspire the courage and dedication of our Sailors and Marines.

The process is a thoughtful and solemn one, weighing the many worthy recommendations for a limited number of vessels.

Please be assured that your suggestion has been formally received. It will be given full and earnest consideration as we select the names for the next generation of naval ships.

Thank you again for your patriotism and for taking the time to share your proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Phelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "C".

John C. Phelan

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