

107 Point Laurel Place
Williamsburg, VA 23185
18 March 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:

This is my third letter to you respectfully requesting that you consider naming a new Navy ship USS Yorktown during our nation's upcoming 250th anniversary celebrations.

I am writing to share encouraging news about our ongoing efforts regarding this matter. Today, *The Virginia Gazette* published a front-page article highlighting this initiative, and the *Daily Press* carried the same story with additional photographs. The coverage is clear, compelling, and beautifully written, capturing both the historical significance of Yorktown and the purpose of our campaign.

This public attention is already proving invaluable. It reflects the deep and enduring reverence that Americans hold for Yorktown as the culminating triumph of the American Revolution. As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and looks ahead to the 250th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown in 2031, the naming of a ship *USS Yorktown* would be a profoundly meaningful tribute to the legacy of American resolve, sacrifice, and unity.

We are deeply grateful for the support of Congressman Rob Wittman of Virginia, whose timely letter to the Secretary of War aligns perfectly with this intense public interest. His leadership, combined with your stewardship of the Navy's proud traditions, gives us great hope that this historic name may once again sail under the American flag.

In our communications with the public about this initiative, we receive overwhelming support for the idea of a new ship named USS Yorktown. The consensus is instant and enthusiastic: naming a new ship *USS Yorktown* during celebrations of our 250th anniversaries would be the **right** thing to do: the **right** way to honor our patriots, the **right** way to commemorate 250 years of American liberty, and the **right** way to inspire future generations. This action is **right** in every sense of the word, and this is the **right** moment in our history to act.

I would be honored to provide any additional historical materials, documentation, or community support that may assist in your consideration. Many others stand ready to write in support as well, and I will continue encouraging them to do so.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this request and for your dedicated service to our nation. It is a privilege to work alongside those who share a commitment to preserving and honoring the history that binds us.

The favor of a reply is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Frances Goodwin Holt

Retired Civil Servant for the Navy (48 years)

Copy to:

Board of Supervisors, York County, Virginia

Executive Director, The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

Executive Director, York County Historical Museum

USS Yorktown CG 48 Association

USS Yorktown CV 10 Association