



FROM THE QUARTERDECK

SAIL 250 NEW YORK



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

To celebrate July 4 and 250 years of independence, NHHC took part in the Navy's Sail4th 250 event in New York City. Nearly 50 tall ships from 20 nations gathered to honor America's 250th birthday. The celebration included an International Aerial and Naval Review, a Parade of Sail, a Blue Angels air show, ship tours, and a fireworks show. NHHC outreach coordinators and naval history experts set up information booths on Pier 86, USS *Arlington*, and the Intrepid Museum. Command personnel interacted with 9,642 visitors throughout the multiday event, explaining the history behind the Navy ships present and demonstrating through a hands-on activity how a submarine dives underwater. NHHC's facility dog, Commander Bond, also took part in the events, going viral for saluting Captain Gervy Alota and providing support to the American sailors in attendance. The Command is very proud of the team for their efforts in New York City!

USS CONSTITUTION

On July 10, 1976, the world came to Boston to celebrate America's Bicentennial. USS *Constitution* led training ships from nearly 20 countries in a majestic harbor parade. While not the first-ever Tall Ship Parade, it was the largest one to date. [John Charles Roach](#), a young US Navy officer with *Constitution*, depicted the exciting day in *Ship Dar Pomorza: Visit to Boston*. In front of *Constitution*, a Boston fireboat sprays jets of water with the Polish *Dar Pomorza* ("Gift of Pomerania") following. Roach left out the two tugs propelling *Constitution* and its American flag, but he silhouetted Boston's first skyscraper. As part of the celebration, [Queen Elizabeth II](#) and Prince Philip arrived on board HMY *Britannia*. *Constitution* welcomed the monarch with a [21-gun salute](#). Fifty years later, celebrating America's Semiquincentennial, USS *Constitution*, the Ship of State, will once again lead the Parade of Ships on July 11, 2026.



US Navy, John C. Roach, *Ship Dar Pomorza Visit to Boston*

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT: DEWEY SWORD



US Navy, photo by Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Christine Montgomery

As managers of the Navy's Central Artifact Collection, the [Curator Branch](#) is responsible for collecting and preserving Navy artifacts. The branch also manages a robust artifact loan program, distributing artifacts to military leadership, veterans' organizations, museums, historical societies, and other qualified establishments across the globe. Through this program, the Curator Branch is assisting the office of Acting Secretary of the Navy [Hung Cao](#) by curating various Navy artifacts that showcase the Navy's rich heritage. One such artifact is a sword that belonged to Admiral George Dewey. The sword was presented to Admiral Dewey by President William McKinley to honor Dewey's victory at the [Battle of Manila Bay](#) in 1898. Crafted by Tiffany & Co., the sword and scabbard are elaborately decorated with diamonds. This glistening artifact is currently on display in the Secretary of the Navy's office and serves as a physical connection to the Navy's rich history.

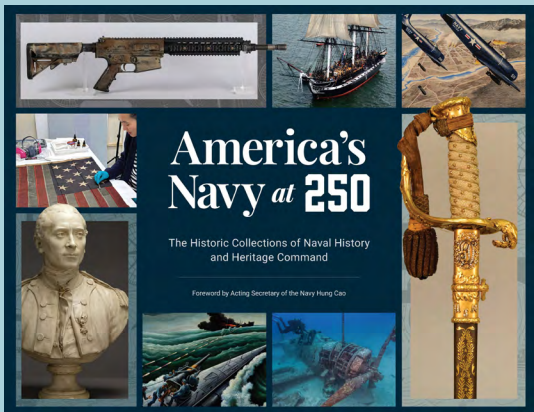
EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: REVOLUTIONARY WAR ART AT THE CITADEL

To celebrate America's birthday and recognize those who fought for liberty and freedom during the [Revolutionary War](#), the [Navy Art Branch](#) is teaming up with The Citadel to curate a Revolutionary War exhibit that will open this August. Hosted by The Citadel, a military college located in Charleston, South Carolina, this inaugural exhibit will include 30 pieces of art depicting monumental naval battles from the war and the heroes who defeated the British and secured independence. To highlight the state's unique role during the Revolutionary War, Navy Art also loaned an engraved print of South Carolina native General Francis Marion, a print of the South Carolina Navy warships *Bricole* and *Truite*, and a print of the South Carolina Navy frigate *Prosper*. The Command is honored that The Citadel is hosting this important exhibition.



NHHC, NH 92874-KN

BOOK RELEASE: AMERICA'S NAVY AT 250



In honor of the 250th birthdays of the nation and the US Navy, the NHHC publication [America's Navy at 250](#) presents a unique view of American naval history through the artifacts, artworks, and submerged cultural sites currently administered by NHHC. The contributions of curators, historians, underwater archaeologists, and other subject matter experts to these pages represent both a dedication to preserve this legacy and a desire to inspire current and future American sailors. From moments of innovation and life at sea, to stories of bravery and triumph, the objects in this book were carefully selected to showcase all aspects of Navy life. Download your copy from NHHC's publication page on [DVIDS](#) or from our website!

CNO VISITS NHHC

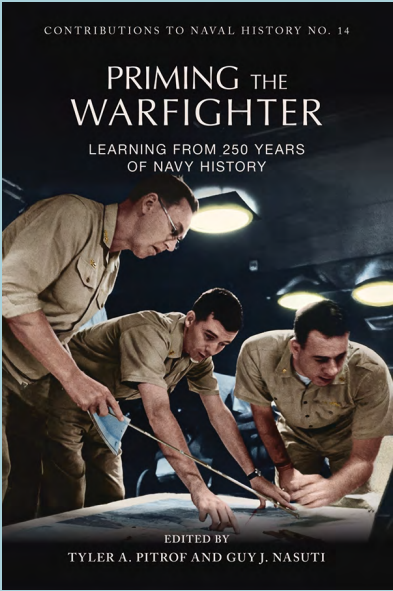


US Navy, photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Maci Sternod

On June 15, the [Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Daryl Caudle](#), and his wife, as well as several members of his staff, visited NHHC to discuss the Command’s Nation 250 celebrations, the new [National Museum of the United States Navy](#), and tour the Command’s facilities, including the library and archives. During their visit, they also viewed the underwater archaeology lab and the arms vault. NHHC leadership previewed its upcoming volume, [America’s Navy at 250](#), for Admiral Caudle, and highlighted some of NHHC’s historic artifacts. The focus of the visit centered on the future of the National Museum of the United States Navy, including the discussion of potential museum sites and future exhibit ideas. Visits by Navy leaders allow NHHC to demonstrate how the Command contributes to the Fleet’s global mission in addition to utilizing the Navy’s history to foster support from the American public.

BOOK RELEASE: *PRIMING THE WARFIGHTER*

From moments of success during battle to failed operations, history provides policymakers and military leaders with valuable lessons to apply to present challenges. In NHHC’s recent publication, [Priming the Warfighter: Learning from 250 Years of Navy History](#), the Command’s historians leverage moments from the past 250 years of Navy history to assist sailors and Navy leadership in developing solutions for today’s problems. This volume includes 18 articles, essays, and white papers, and spans eras from the early days of the Navy to twenty-first century conflicts. Covering an array of subjects ranging from naval shipyard innovation to mine countermeasures, this book provides important context that frames current and future problems for the Navy’s warfighters.



NHHC, photo by Aaron Rowland

SAIL 250 BALTIMORE

For the third leg of the Sail 250 cruise, 21 tall ships and seven military vessels sailed to Maryland. The event included a Blue Angels show in Baltimore and live performance by the US Navy Band. NHHC supported the Navy’s Sail 250 effort by bringing Maryland-specific infographics and handouts on some of the visiting vessels. Command personnel interacted with 2,148 visitors throughout the multiday event, explaining NHHC’s purpose and the importance of preserving the Navy’s history. The Command also took part in the event’s STEM Zone where kids observed and experimented with the [National Museum of the United States Navy](#)’s interactive steam engine. In addition to sending experts and outreach coordinators, the National Museum of the United States Navy opened an exhibit at the Baltimore Visitor Center titled “[Navy 250: The Legacy](#).” This effort demonstrated the breadth of the Command’s participation and commitment of the Navy’s America 250 celebration.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT ROYCE WILLIAMS VISITS NHHC

On June 13, NHHC welcomed Medal of Honor recipient Captain [Elmer Royce Williams](#) to the [National Museum of the United States Navy](#) to view NHHC's vast collection. Captain Williams was a naval aviator who served during [World War II](#), the [Korean War](#), and the [Vietnam War](#). In 1952, while assigned to Fighter Squadron 781 embarked on USS [Oriskany](#) (CV-34), Williams's combat air patrol encountered six Soviet MiG-15 aircraft over North Korea. A 35-minute battle ensued with Williams shooting down four enemy aircraft. Out of ammunition and flying a severely damaged aircraft, he returned to *Oriskany* uninjured. This incredible dogfight remained classified for decades, however, meaning Williams's heroic actions were unknown. Following the declassification of his mission, President Trump awarded Captain Williams the [Medal of Honor](#). NHHC was truly grateful for the opportunity to host Captain Williams and give him a tour of the Command's exhibits.



NHHC, photo by Kristina Higgins

BOOK RELEASE: *ON COURSE THROUGH HISTORY*

As part of the Command's America 250 commemoration, NHHC historians contributed to an expanded edition of [On Course through History](#), a publication that was released last year as part of the Navy's 250th birthday celebration. The original volume provided an overview of the Navy's history since its creation and the people and events that contributed to the Navy's warfighting readiness at sea, on land, and in the air. The new edition encompasses the contributions of additional Navy specialties, including information warfare, logistics, [diving and salvage](#), [medicine](#), civil engineering, and the Navy legal community. Each of the service's communities plays a critical role in ensuring that the Fleet is prepared and ready to face all emerging threats, and it is important to recognize their value. This publication demonstrates the key role the Navy has had, and will continue to have, in protecting the nation and its freedoms.



US Navy, photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Analice Baker

