



FROM THE QUARTERDECK

SAIL 250 BOSTON



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

For the final leg of the Sail 250 event, over 50 tall ships traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, for a Tall Ship Parade with the USS [Constitution](#). As part of the parade, Old Ironsides was towed out to Boston Harbor to greet the international review of ships with a [21-gun salute](#). After the parade, the vessels docked along the Charleston Navy Yard, allowing Bostonians and international visitors to tour these magnificent vessels. Headlining the event was the USS *Constitution* and the US Coast Guard's training vessel *Eagle* (WIX-327). The Naval History and Heritage Command's (NHHC) outreach team and Commander Bond were also on site to engage with visitors and discuss the role NHHC plays in preserving *Constitution* and the vast historical resources available to the public for free. In total, the Command interacted with 6,300 people during the multiday event, capping off the very successful Sail 250 Celebrations.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: TELLY AWARDS

For the second year in a row, the [National Museum of the United States Navy \(NMUSN\)](#) has been recognized by the Telly Awards for an interactive exhibit. This year, the organization awarded NMUSN with not one but two Telly Awards for the museum's work on the exhibit *Navy 250: The Legacy*.



NHHC, photo by Rajshree Solanki

The two awards include a gold award for integrating archival footage in an immersive format, bringing to life the history of the Navy over the past 250 years, and a silver award recognizing the exhibit's overall creativity and engaging displays. The success of this exhibit would not have been possible without the dedication of NHHC's curators, collections specialists, graphic designers, archaeologists, media specialists, producers, and partners, who collaborated to utilize innovative technology to connect with the audience and tell the story of the US Navy. To view this award-winning exhibition, visit the Baltimore Visitor Center open until October 18th!



IN MEMORY: CAPTAIN POSEIDON



US Navy, photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Hannah Kantner

NHHC joins the Navy in mourning the loss of Captain Poseidon, the facility dog aboard USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68). As a Command with a facility dog, NHHC knows the amazing benefits service dogs can have on morale, especially for sailors on deployment. Captain Poseidon was a three-year-old black Labrador retriever trained as part of the “Mutts with a Mission” program. Aboard *Nimitz*, Poseidon improved the crew’s morale by providing stress relief and support. He served two deployments, traveling across the world, and even taking part in a Crossing the Line ceremony as the *Nimitz* crossed the equator. Nicknamed Mr. Wigglebottoms, Captain Poseidon was known for always wagging his tail and saying hello to the crew. He joins a long line of dogs that have served in the US Navy. The crew intends to hold a service for him in September. Fair winds and following seas, Captain Poseidon.

SAVING THE NAVY DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

Did you know that the [Navy Department Library](#) is actually older than the Library of Congress and survived the [burning of DC](#)? In 1812, years of rising tension between the United States and Great Britain erupted into the [War of 1812](#). After defeating American forces in the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814, 4,300 British troops marched into Washington, DC. As President James Madison and his cabinet fled to safety, the British set fire to many symbols of the United States’ government, including the White House and Capitol, which housed the congressional library. The Navy Library’s collection, however, was moved north of the city and escaped the destruction that consumed much of the capital. Today, the Library continues its mission by providing resources on naval topics to the Fleet and policymakers.



Oil on canvas by Ally Cox, Courtesy of Architect of the Capitol

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: REVOLUTIONARY WAR

On July 29, the [National Museum of the United States Navy](#) unveiled its newest exhibit, *Nation and Navy: The American Revolution*. This new exhibit presents the story of the [American Revolution](#) and the efforts by the Continental Congress and the brave colonists who fought for independence despite facing shortages in materials and manpower, and the Royal Navy, the strongest navy in the world. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the 13 colonies did not have a real naval force to protect trade; instead merchant ships were expected to defend themselves. This practice created an avenue for eventually converting armed merchant ships into warships with experienced crews. The exhibit also highlights naval victories during the war and notable sailors, such as [John Paul Jones](#), who, through their brave actions, helped the colonies overcome the British Empire. For more information on the Revolutionary War and the Navy, visit our website.



NHHC, Photo by Clifford Davis

NAVY HISTORY MATTERS: A LEADER IS BORN



US National Archives, Catalog #306-ST-649-9

During [World War II](#), millions of Americans joined the military, including [John F. Kennedy](#), who was commissioned in the Naval Reserve in the fall of 1941. Limited with a bad back, Kennedy started his Navy service as an ensign with naval intelligence. Pursuing combat duty, he was transferred to [PT-109](#) of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 2 in the [Solomon Islands](#). On the morning of August 2, 1943, *PT-109* was on patrol when the Japanese destroyer *Amagiri* split the boat in half, dispersing the crew. Kennedy sprang into action and used a lifejacket strap to tow an injured crew-member three miles to land. Kennedy, along with Ensign George Ross, then swam to the nearby island of Naura to ensure the crew’s rescue. For his bravery and leadership, Kennedy was awarded the [Purple Heart](#) and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. He would go on to become the 35th President of the United States.

DECK LOG POEM CONTEST WINNERS

NHHC is excited to announce the first, second, and third place winners for the Command’s 2026 [New Year’s Deck Log Poem Contest](#). A committee composed of archivists and sailors from the National Naval Aviation Museum judged submissions based on their coherence, imagery, and reflection of life as a sailor. The Director of NHHC, retired Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, then reviewed the finalists and selected the winners. Congratulations to this year’s winners: in third place, Ensign Hanna Stanford of *USS Michael Monsoor* (DDG-1001); in second, Ensign Dane Ferris of *USS Mahan* (DDG-72); and, finally, in first place, Lieutenant (j.g.) Dietrich Dressel of *USS Truxtun* (DDG-103). On behalf of NHHC, thank you to everyone who submitted their deck logs and congratulations to our winners. To read their poems, please visit our website.



US Navy, LTJG Dietrich M. Dressel

NHHC CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF A NEW PUBLICATION

In late July, NHHC hosted historians from the Command, the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museum, and the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, to celebrate their contributions to NHHC’s publication [On Course Through History: The US Navy at 250](#). During the event, Peter Luebke, the head of the Histories Branch, discussed the efforts by historians to put together a comprehensive book on the communities in the Navy and their role in ensuring the Navy continues to be the best maritime fighting force in the world. Thank you to Tyler R. Bamford, M. Ashley Vance, Guy J. Nasuti, Caroline E. Tapp, Christopher J. Martin, Christopher B. Havern, André B. Sobocinski, George R. Schwarz, Gina L. Nichols, John E. Fahey, Jon S. Middaugh, Carsten Fries, and Darnell Surles for all of your hard work! The publication is free to download on our [website](#) and [DVIDs](#).



NHHC, photo by Clifford Davis

DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN NHHC HISTORIAN

Ever wonder what a Navy historian *actually* does? If you're picturing quiet archives and dusty books, think again. At NHHC, our mission is tied directly to supporting the warfighter and Navy leadership. Unlike traditional academic historians, our day-to-day operations are driven by the immediate needs of the Fleet. Here is what that looks like in action:

- Solving Modern Problems: We respond to rapid requests for information (RFIs) from the Pentagon, providing the critical historical context leaders need to tackle today's strategic challenges.
- Capturing Real-Time Insights: We conduct oral history interviews with active-duty sailors to capture real-time operational lessons.
- Driving Readiness: We brief policymakers and the Fleet so yesterday's hard-won lessons shape tomorrow's victories.



NHHC, photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Mutis A. Capizzi

We do not just study history—we operationalize it. Check out our latest publications [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🚢 **Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum**, Reopening, August 8, West Branch, Iowa
- 🚢 **Navy Week Billings**, August 17-23, Billings, Montana
- 🚢 **Navy Week Burlington**, August 24-30, Burlington, Vermont
- 🚢 **Tailhook Association's Hook 26**, August 20-22, Reno, Nevada
- 🚢 **Navy Week Cincinnati**, September 14-20, Cincinnati, Ohio

