



The Friends of the PNSM
The Wheelhouse

Volume 4, No 1

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January 1, 2025

**Welcome to the
The Wheelhouse,**

a Newsletter published
quarterly by **The
Friends of the
Portsmouth Naval
Shipyard Museum**

Please visit the
Museum and see our
website for additional
information.

<https://www.friendsofportsmouthnsm.org/>

In this issue we bring
you:

President's Message from
Gary Bahena,
Treasurer Report,
History Column from
Steve Milner,
Review of the latest
Speaker Series by Keith
Abernathy,

Editor, Newsletter Design &
Event photographer:
Renée M. Russell

**The Friends of the
Portsmouth Naval
Shipyard Museum**

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President's Message

Greeting Friends. In this issue of the Wheelhouse, we bring you Steve Milner's terrific piece on the *USS Enterprise* and its legacy. As always, thank you for your continued support.

During this coming quarter, fingers crossed, we also anticipate to finally start putting our Oral History Project and Speakers Series tapes up on to our website.

Treasurer Report

As of December 31, 2024

The Friends have \$119,035.44 in cash and liquid investments. During this fiscal year we are funding the continuation of the Oral History Project and projects not yet defined by the Museums.

**Please
become a
Member
of the
Friends.
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online
now!**

THE FRIENDS OF THE PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD MUSEUM

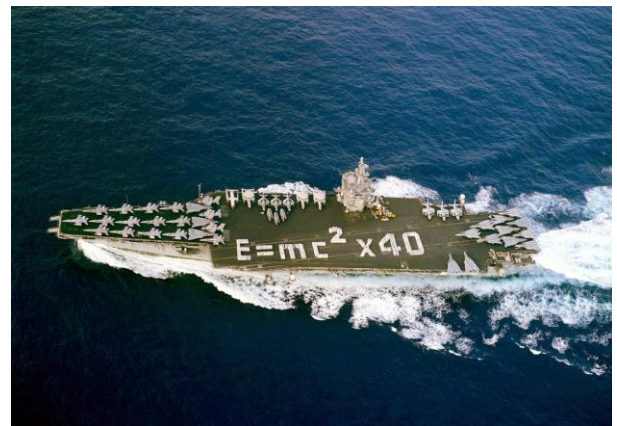
Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) History

By: Steve Milner, Former Public Affairs Officer at
Norfolk Naval Shipyard

A shipyard within a shipyard: A win-win project that rescued a schedule

On January 7, 2002, Norfolk Naval Shipyard rolled out the welcome mat at the start of a very different kind of aircraft carrier availability—one in which NNSY became a shipyard within a shipyard for the next eight-and-a-half months.

At that time, NNSY agreed to let Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard perform an availability on *USS Enterprise* (CVN 65) when a Newport News carrier drydock was full and our Drydock No. 8 was between assignments.



USS Enterprise's crew spell out Albert Einstein's symbol for his Theory of Relativity— "Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared" in its 40th year in service. US Navy photo.

Then **NNSY Commander, Captain Mark Hugel**, described this cooperative arrangement in his column in the Service to the Fleet employee newspaper on January 18, 2002, as a win-win for everyone, including the two shipyards, and for the ship's crew that would get its needed depot maintenance performed on a base he described as, "being equipped with some of the Navy's best

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Morale, Welfare and Recreation and quality of life facilities.” These included NNSY’s gymnasium, single Sailor center, galley, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters and Scott Center Annex.

Captain Hugel wrote in his column that it took a lot of early planning to accomplish this cooperative effort before *USS Enterprise* entered NNSY’s Drydock No. 8. He added, “The best thinkers from NGNN, NNSY, SUPSHIP Newport News, COMNAVAIRLANT and ENTERPRISE have carefully analyzed, strategized and documented their plans for handling the nuts-and-bolts details for getting all of the work done by the multiple maintenance activities working on the ship.”

He continued, “The resulting integrated plan represents our best collective effort to provide a roadmap for success; now is the time to put the plan into motion.”

Captain Hugel ended his column by welcoming the men and women on *USS Enterprise* and said, on behalf of the NNSY maintenance team, “we are committed to tackle your work package.”



Fast-forward by eight-and-a-half months, when *USS Enterprise* undocked on schedule. In an article in Defense-Aerospace.com. Captain Hugel said: “Just as getting the ship undocked was a huge team effort from several different repair activities, so the completion of our dry-dock package was a great team effort from many people representing several NNSY departments.”

He added in this news-service article: “The challenges that the NNSY team faced to wrap up its portion of the underwater hull work package were daunting. Several pieces of shafting required major repairs, and one propeller needed to be replaced and the others needed close inspection, engineering evaluation and repairs.”

And Glenn Tainter, NNSY’s Enterprise Project Superintendent, also noted in Defense-Aerospace.com, other major shipyard work during the Extended Dry Dock Selected Restricted Availability (EDSRA) included maintenance and modification of aircraft launch and recovery equipment, and repair and refrigerant conversion of the ship’s air-conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Tainter added, “NNSY accomplished several other structural, mechanical, electrical, piping and preservation improvements to ship’s habitability, weapons handling and combat systems. The NNSY team’s efforts

ensured that *USS Enterprise* was returned to the Fleet combat ready.”

Captain Hugel said the NNSY team met these and many more challenges “head-on,” while synchronizing it’s efforts with those of Northrop Grumman Newport News, and the many subcontractors employed by this company.

In the end, Captain Hugel said, “success is once again measured by cost, scheduling and quality performance—and in all three measures, our NNSY team excelled.” In writing this story I learned about some of the earlier eight ships that were commissioned *USS Enterprise*, starting with the first one during the American Revolutionary War.



USS Enterprise (NCC-1701) is a starship in the Star Trek media franchise. It is the main setting of the original Star Trek television series (1966–69), and it is depicted in films, other television series, spin-off fiction, products, and fan-created media.

Also, for example, Gene Roddenberry, who created the popular television show *Star Trek*, named his fictional star ship in honor of an earlier *USS Enterprise* (CV 6)

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USS Enterprise (CVN 65) sails under San Francisco's majestic Golden Gate Bridge. Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS).

carrier, because he was impressed by its World War II record. CV 6 was the most decorated ship during this war, having received 20 combat Battle Stars.

Another thing I learned was that Jack Taylor, founder of Enterprise Car Rental, adopted his company's name as a tribute to *USS Enterprise*, having served as a combat pilot aboard CV 6 in the Second World War.

USS Enterprise was the Navy's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and had eight reactors.

(Today's Navy aircraft carriers are powered by two nuclear reactors.) *USS Enterprise* was in service for 55 years, from 1961 to 2017.

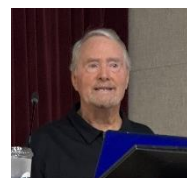
Northrop Grumman Newport News is deactivating *USS Enterprise*, which can be seen as one crosses the northbound lanes of the James River Bridge.

NGNN is building a new aircraft carrier bearing this historic ship's namesake. This Gerald R. Ford-Class ship is scheduled to be commissioned CVN 80 and be operational in 2029. Its original planned delivery date slipped 18 months from 2028 due to its suppliers' product disruptions caused during Covid.

CVN 80 will continue the "Big E's" storied reputation as the tenth vessel to bear the name, *USS Enterprise*, nearly 250 years after its first namesake sailed during the American Revolution.

Speaker Series Events

Unless otherwise noted, all Speaker events are held on **Saturday, from 2-3 pm**, in the **Police Auditorium** at



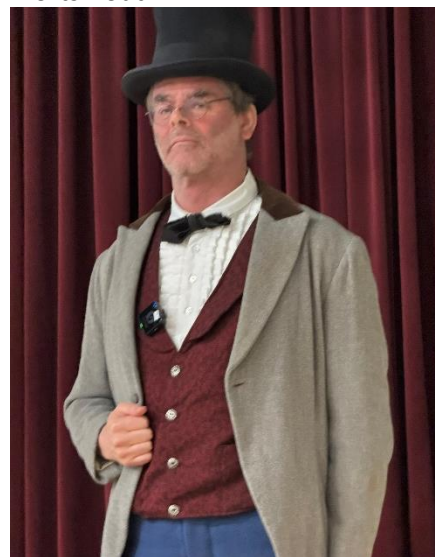
the **Visitor's Center** on the corner of **Middle and High Streets**.

Keith Abernathy, Friends Vice President and creator of the Speakers Series

"Secrets of Portsmouth"

Part 4 of the 4 Part 2024 Series: "Secrets of Portsmouth"

The Friends of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum hosted their fourth and final speaker of the 2024 Speakers Series, "Secrets of Portsmouth"



Historical Actor and Re-enactor, Gregory Eatroff

Part 4 featured **Gregory Eatroff**, Curator, Portsmouth Public Library, Local history, an historic actor and Re-enactor, and avid student of History.



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Greg studied history at William & Mary and Old Dominion University and worked as a historical interpreter at Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Monument.



He has acted in several historical films and worked on documentaries on Hampton Roads history as an actor, presenter, writer, and producer. He is currently the curator of the Local History collection at the Portsmouth Public Library.

He spoke about: **Mr. James Fayette**, black patriot, double agent and Portsmouth resident; the Portsmouth station of the Underground Railroad; the secret plans for the CSS Virginia; and much more!



Re-enactor playing James Fayette

Speaker Series 2025

We have a star-studded group of SPEAKERS SERIES for 2025 that will be of interest to history-lovers. 2025 marks an extraordinary milestone for our nation and the proud naval heritage of our city.

Two and a half centuries ago, the Second Continental Congress laid the foundation for America's maritime strength with resolutions **establishing the U.S. Navy on October 13**, the U.S. Marine Corps



on November 10, and U.S. Navy Medicine on November 28.

Additionally, Norfolk Naval Shipyard—

founded in 1767—continues its legacy 258 years later as the oldest and most vital shipyard serving the U.S. Navy to this day.

In honor of these historic anniversaries, the Friends are proud to present the **2025 Speakers Series**, featuring some of the most **distinguished historians** to bring these remarkable stories to life. Join us **as we celebrate 250 years** of courage, innovation, and service.



Part 1 of the 4 Part Series:

"250 Years of Naval History"

Our first featured speaker of 2025 will be **John V. Quarstein**, Award Winning Author, Historian, & Preservationist Director Emeritus, USS Monitor Center.



In Celebration of the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy, the Speaker will present **"The Founding of the United States Navy"** Saturday, March 22, 2025, 2 - 3 pm

Plan Ahead!

2025 Speakers Series

Presents

250 Years of U.S. Navy History

Part 2

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 2 - 3 pm

250 Years of **U.S. Marine Corps**

Speaker: **Shawn Callahan**, Director U.S. Marine Corps History Division

Part 3

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 2 - 3 pm

250 Years of **U.S. Navy Medicine**

Speaker: **André Sobocinski**
Renowned Historian — U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Part 4

Saturday, November 1, 2025, 2 - 3 pm

250 Years of **Service to the U.S. Navy**

Speaker: **Marcus Robbins**
Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Command Historian & Archivist