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Remembering Our Maritime Heritage

SSHSA will join organizations around the country next week in celebrating National Maritime Day on May 22th. The day commemorates the voyage of the *Savannah*, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic in 1819. Deemed impossible by some scientists at the time, the *Savannah* landed in Liverpool, England on June 16th after a 25-day voyage.

The first National Maritime Day was held in 1933, supported by President Franklin Roosevelt (the only sitting president who was also a SSHSA member) and a joint resolution by Congress.

Today, memorials, open houses, luncheons, and special celebrations are held to recognize our history, our heroes, and all of the benefits we enjoy as a result of the maritime industry. Check with your local maritime museum or organization to see what may be going on in your area!

Location of USS Independence Discovered

NOAA recently confirmed the discovery of the USS *Independence*, the lead ship of its class of light aircraft carriers during World War II. NOAA scientists reported that the *Independence* is "amazingly intact," and is resting in 2,600 feet of water off California's Farallon Islands.

The vessel operated in the central and western Pacific from November 1943 through August 1945, and was later one of more than ninety vessels assembled as a target fleet for the Bikini Atoll atomic bomb tests in 1946. Damaged by shock waves, heat, and

SSHSA's new headquarters.

Like SSHSA on Facebook to read about current and historical maritime events and updates on SSHSA's new headquarters.

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Favorite SSHSA on Flickr to view images of conferences, events, and meetings, and scans of images from SSHSA's photo archives.

**The Spring
2015 *PowerShips* is
another winner!**

We're hearing a lot of great feedback

radiation, *Independence* survived the Bikini Atoll tests and returned to the United States.

While moored at San Francisco's Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, *Independence* was the primary focus of the Navy's studies on decontamination until age and the possibility of its sinking led the Navy to tow the blast-damaged carrier to sea for scuttling on January 26, 1951.

James Delgado, Chief Scientist on the *Independence* mission and Maritime Heritage Director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, stated, "After 64 years on the seafloor, *Independence* sits on the bottom as if ready to launch its planes. This ship fought a long, hard war in the Pacific and after the war was subjected to two atomic blasts that ripped through the ship. It is a reminder of the industrial might and skill of the 'greatest generation' that sent not only this ship, but their loved ones to war."

Independence is one of an estimated 300 wrecks in the waters off San Francisco, and the deepest known shipwreck in the sanctuary. To learn more about the USS *Independence* and NOAA's process, please [click here](#).

(Above image: USS *Independence*, US National Archives.)

100th Anniversary of *Lusitania*'s Sinking

On May 7, 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the RMS *Lusitania*, a British ocean liner en route from New York to Liverpool, England, less than twelve miles off the Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland. Of the more than 1,900 passengers and crew members on board, nearly 1,200 perished. The sinking occurred less than a year after World War I erupted across Europe, and the news sent shockwaves around the globe.

A commemoration ceremony took place in Cobh, Ireland, on the 100th anniversary of the sinking, and was attended by the British, German, and United States ambassadors to Ireland. The cruise liner *Queen Victoria* and the USS *Anzio* (CG 68), a US Navy Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, were in attendance as part of the commemoration. As part of the ceremony, a diver descended to the *Lusitania*'s resting place and placed a white rose and a plaque with the names of the victims onto the wreck.

about *PowerShips* #293, which takes you around the globe with stops in Russia, America, Australia, and Europe. It's not too late to come on board if your membership has lapsed. Renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570, and you'll receive a copy of the Spring 2015 *PowerShips* with your new membership card. Don't miss out!

Tugboat to Become Part of Artificial Reef

A retired tugboat will soon become part of a new artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico. Built in 1952, *Ocean Wind* is an 87 foot ship docking assist tug, and was retired in 2013. The tug will be scuttled in 90-95 feet of water, about 10 nautical miles southeast of Pensacola Pass.

Work on prepping the tug is currently underway at the Port of Pensacola in Florida, and could be finished within the month. Some of the work includes removing glass, plastics, and any remaining fuel and oil in the tug's five tanks.

The rough coordinates for the *Ocean Wind* when scuttled will be 30 degrees and 11 minutes north latitude, and 87 degrees, 12 minutes west longitude.

Call for Papers for HNSA's Annual Conference

The 2015 Historic Naval Ships Association (HNSA) Annual Conference will be held September 16th-18th. This year's host is the USS *Iowa* in San Pedro, California, with an opening reception on

Launched in 1906 by Cunard, the *Lusitania* made her maiden voyage in 1907 and held the Blue Riband on and off during her short career. When she was sunk in 1915, she was on the return leg of her 101st roundtrip voyage across the Atlantic.

An Update on the QE2?

Seven years after the *Queen Elizabeth 2*'s final

voyage from Southampton to Dubai, no hotel plans or renovations have come to fruition. While she is largely intact, the *QE2* has been without power for over two years, is covered in dirt and dust, and her future is very much uncertain.

To stay up-to-date on what's happening with the *QE2*, please visit TheQE2Story.com by [clicking here](#).

Wood Towing Christens Sixth Vessel, Named After Patriarch

Breaking with their tradition of naming vessels after long-serving captains, Wood Towing Company in Avondale, Louisiana named their sixth vessel after their family patriarch, Donald Wood. The 75 by 34 by 10 foot vessel, the MV *Donald Wood*, was built by Steiner Construction Company and is powered by C32 Caterpillar diesels through ZF series 5111 Z-drives. *Donald Wood* is the first Z-drive boat in the fleet.

"It took two months before my father would agree to have a boat named in his honor," President of Wood Towing, Sarah Louise Wood Ham, stated during the christening. "I do not know a more humble man than my father."

Donald Wood started working on barges at age fifteen. In 1956, after completing his service in the US Navy, he joined his father in a partnership consisting of one towboat. Point Landing Fuel, a diesel distributorship, was established, and Wood acquired sand pits and built a suction dredge named for his father, the MIV *W.B. Wood*. In the

September 15th. The Call for Papers deadline for HNSA's Annual Conference is July 31st, 2015. Please [click here](#) for additional information on submitting papers for this conference.

Rowing Craft to be Delivered to Famous Vessel

Students at the Great Lakes Boat Building School in Cedarville, Michigan, have been building a rowing craft that will be used by the crew of a famous vessel—the *USS Constitution*.

The idea for the project was developed in July 2014, when the Captain of the *USS Constitution* reached out to school officials and asked them if they would be interested in making the craft for his crew. The rowing craft will provide the crew of the *USS Constitution* with the opportunity to exercise and take part in rowing competitions with other ships in the US Navy.

The boat is expected to be completed next month. School students and staff will then travel with the boat to Boston, where it will be handed over to the crew.

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1980s, Donald's three children, Sarah Louise Wood Ham, Donald Wood, Jr. and Pearce Wood, joined their father. They added sand pits, expanded the range of construction materials for sale, installed ship mooring facilities, and added the capability to perform maintenance dredging. Today, Wood Resources continues to be a family-owned business, with about 90 employees.

Donald Wood will push two 30,000-barrel barges between South Texas and the Mississippi River on a contract with American Commercial Lines.

(Above image: MV *Donald Wood*, The Waterways Journal.)

What's Happening in Ship History?

This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.

May 15th

The 6th Annual Nautical Antiques Show
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford, MA

<http://www.whalingmuseum.org/programs/nautical-antique-show-2015>

May 22nd- National Maritime Day

SSHSA Launch Party
Steamship Historical Society of America
Warwick, RI

<http://www.sshsa.org>

May 23rd

SSHSA Annual Meeting
Steamship Historical Society of America
Warwick, RI

<http://www.sshsa.org>

May 25th

United States Military Appreciation Day
Battleship *Iowa*
San Pedro, CA

<https://tickets.labattleship.com/affiliate.asp?ID=7B813558-63CE-4921-BBB9-B7754FE02C16>

June 6th

Behind-the-Scenes Tours of Historic Ships
Independence Seaport
Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.phillyseaport.org/historic/ships>

June 18th

The Bizarre History and Fascinating Marine Life of Clifton Island

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Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
Santa Barbara, CA
<http://www.sbmm.org/events/the-bizarre-history-and-fascinating-marine-life-of-clipperton-island/>

June 26th-28th
The WoodenBoat Show
Mystic Seaport
Mystic, CT
www.thewoodenboatshow.com

July 1st
Family Day of Celebration
Texas Maritime Museum
Rockport, TX
http://texasmaritimemuseum.org/?page_id=174

July 10th-12th
SubFest 2015
Wisconsin Maritime Museum
Manitowoc, WI
<http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/special-events/subfest-2015/>

September 16th-18th
Historic Naval Ships Association Annual Conference
Battleship *Iowa*
San Pedro, CA
<http://www.hnsa.org/events/2015-hnsa-conference-save-the-dates/>

October 5th-6th
Museum Small Craft Association Annual Meeting
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
St. Michaels, MD
www.museumsmallcraft.org

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Renew Your Membership Today

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