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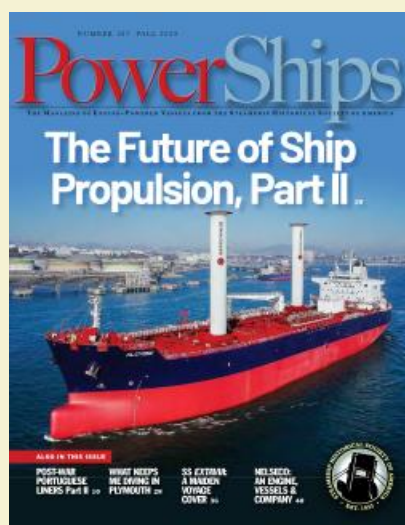
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The Fall issue
of *PowerShips* has landed

SS *United States* proposes bold vision, seeks new home

The SS *United States*, SSHSA's 2010 Ship of the Year, is searching for a new home after unveiling a wide-ranging economic development project earlier this month.

The plan, developed in conjunction with two prominent New York firms, RXR and MCR Hotels, would repurpose the legendary ocean liner as a unique, mixed-use destination, including a 1,000 key hotel,



numerous food and beverage destinations, multiple event venues, acres of public green space, and a world-class museum.

The redevelopment plan comes at a time when the SS *United States* is in peril. The ship faces possible eviction from her current pier in Philadelphia. The vessel's landlord doubled the conservancy's rent during the coronavirus pandemic, placing significant financial strain on the organization. The conservancy is presently in litigation on the matter, with a trial date slated for early December.

"The Conservancy's partners and passionate supporters from across the country and around the world have created a viable path forward to save the SS *United States*," said Susan Gibbs, president of the SS *United States* Conservancy and granddaughter of the ship's original designer. "But we are quickly running out of time. We know this can be a viable, transformative project. Let's rally together to secure a home for America's Flagship."

Issue #327 of *PowerShips* magazine is available now, featuring the following stories:

- Future of Ship Propulsion, Pt. II
- Post-War Portuguese Liners, Pt. II
- What Keeps Me Diving in Plymouth
- SS *Extavia*: A Maiden Voyage Cover
- Nelseco: An Engine, Vessels & Company

Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.



Key Great Lakes route reopens after weeklong strike

A deal was reached late last month to end a weeklong strike that shut down 13 locks on the St. Lawrence Seaway and jammed up shipping along the Great Lakes.

The conceptual plan identified Manhattan's Hudson River as the optimal "home port" for the vessel because of its proximity to transportation and pedestrian access to the Javits Convention Center. The project would require the redesign and reconstruction of adjacent piers, which would create acres of new public green space aboard the vessel and adjoining areas. However, officials say that New York is not the only location under consideration, and that they are prepared to donate the ship and all of the design and engineering work to help secure a prime location for the historic vessel.

"The SS *United States* symbolizes the nation's ambition and innovation. Our development partners have embraced the patriotic and economic significance of this monumental project. Through their extensive due diligence, they have created a bold and exciting plan that preserves the ship's history and activates the vessel's commercial potential," Gibbs said.

Caption: Conceptual rendering of a redeveloped SS *United States* docked along Manhattan's west side (Photo: SS United States Conservancy).

New ship to be named in honor of Native American war hero

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced earlier this month that a DDG 51 Flight III Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer will be named after World War II hero Ernest E. Evans, the first Native American in the Navy to earn the Medal of Honor and one of only two World War II destroyer captains to attain it.

Additionally, Secretary Del Toro announced that the ship's sponsor will be U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary.

"Since our nation's founding, Native Americans, such as Ernest Evans, have volunteered to serve in our armed services. From the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I and II, to Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Native

Workers in Ontario and Quebec walked out on Oct. 22 in a dispute between the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. and Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector union. It was the first time that a strike had shut down this vital shipping route since 1968.

According to the Associated Press, approximately 115 vessels were stalled in the St. Lawrence River and on Lake Ontario. It estimated the losses at approximately \$110 million (\$153 million Canadian) per day.

"I congratulate the members of the St. Lawrence Seaway on their new collective agreements and Unifor is committed to making this the start of a better and more respectful workplace for our members," Unifor National President Lana Payne said. "We saw incredible solidarity from members in Ontario and Quebec who stood together to demand a fair contract for all - and that's the real power of a union."

The agreement covers 360 workers who facilitate the transit of ships through the Great Lakes, along the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Atlantic Ocean. Wages will see annual increases of up to five percent, retroactive to April 1, 2023, along with a \$2,000 signing bonus.

The St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes are part of a system of locks, canals, rivers and lakes that stretches more than 2,300 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the western tip of Lake Superior in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It carried over \$12 billion (nearly \$17 billion Canadian) worth of cargo last year.

Registration still open for *Savannah* site visits

For those interested in becoming the new steward of the NS *Savannah*, there's still time to sign up for two site visits taking place aboard the National Historic Landmark.

Late last month, the Maritime Administration posted a Notice of Availability / Request for Information for the *Savannah* in the Federal Register. The purpose is to determine preservation interest from entities that may wish to acquire the ship. MARAD will consider a donation, a charter or lease, cooperative agreements or even partnering with another entity to maintain and operate the *Savannah*.

The site visits will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17 in Baltimore. Contact Erhard Koehler at 202-680-2066 or marad.history@dot.gov to reserve a spot.

Americans have fought with honor and distinction to preserve our union and defend our ideals of freedom and democracy, even during periods where they were not recognized as citizens of our country," Del Toro said.



Ernest Edwin Evans was born on Aug. 13, 1908, in Pawnee, Oklahoma. He graduated from Central High School in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy on May 29, 1926. After a year of enlisted service, he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, entered as a midshipman, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in June 1931.

Evans spent his first decade of service in San Diego, Pensacola, and aboard seven ships. He was serving on his eighth in the East Indies when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, thrusting the U.S. into World War II.

In 1943, he assumed command of the USS *Johnston* and would serve as its only commanding officer. On Oct. 25, 1944, Evans and his fellow destroyer captains launched an offensive attack against overwhelming odds against a much larger Japanese naval force during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The *Johnston* took the lead and drew fire away from the aircraft carriers and other vulnerable ships, saving thousands of sailors in the process.

In recognition of his sacrifice, Evans was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the China Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp, and was entitled to the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with six engagement stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Philippine Defense and Liberation Ribbons with the one star.

"While this nation has not always welcomed them, Native Americans have consistently and honorably served in disproportionately high rates across the Armed Forces to keep us safe at home and abroad," Haaland said. "As we honor Commander Evans with this stunning vessel, we also honor the service of Indigenous servicemembers nationwide, past and present."

Built in 1959, the *Savannah* is the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship and served as a signature element of President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace program. While in service, the *Savannah* demonstrated the peaceful use of atomic power and explored the feasibility of nuclear-powered merchant vessels. She was retired from active service in 1970.

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This is the second vessel that will be named in honor of Evans, following the destroyer escort vessel USS *Evans* (DE 1023).

Caption: Commander Ernest Evans at the commissioning ceremonies for the destroyer USS *Johnston* (DD-557) on October 27, 1943 (Photo: Wikipedia).

Companies face increased fees to transit Panama Canal

Shipping costs continue to rise at the Panama Canal, where companies are faced with the choice of paying a premium to get through in a timely manner or avoiding the area completely.



Earlier this month, the Eneos Group of Japan paid nearly \$4 million in an auction to transit the canal, which has become a bottleneck since the summer because of severe drought conditions in the region. The low water levels have forced officials to limit the number of ships that can use the canal each day, leading to fierce competition for the few available slots. According to the American Journal of Transportation, 140 auctions were held last month alone, with three of them coming in at more than \$1 million.

The problem is that fresh water is needed to raise the ships through the locks, and the nearby Gatun Lake – which also supplies water to 50 percent of the population – is at a four-year low. El Nino continues to wreak havoc on the country's rainy season, with October coming in at 41 percent less rainfall than usual.

Unfortunately for shippers and consumers, the situation won't be corrected quickly. The Panama Canal Authority said in a press release that it will continue to gradually reduce the number of transits over the next few months, all the way down to just 18 ships per day beginning Feb. 1, 2024.

"Waiting time is very sporadic," Avance Gas CEO Oystein Kalleklev told FreightWaves.com. "If you discharge a cargo and fix a ship for the U.S., you don't know if the waiting time will be two days, five days, 10 days or 20 days."

Those projections have some companies bypassing the Panama Canal altogether, even though it takes several weeks longer and costs thousands more to use the Suez Canal or go around the Cape of Good Hope.

The Panama Canal Authority recently proposed a new reservoir in the Indio River to increase the water supply for the area. It is expected to cost nearly \$900 million and support an additional 12 to 15 passages each day.

(Photo: Panama Canal Authority).

Please consider a gift to our year-end campaign

Recently one of our dedicated volunteers was asked why he spends his time here. He had several reasons. The one response that stood out was “I like the back stories.”

Think about that ... the back stories.

Did you ever think about the impact of all sailors in shaping



America's nautical history? Who are the captains of the tugboats or pilot boats that guide the big ships into port? Who is the Unsinkable Molly Brown, and why was she given that name? Why are ships named after women? One interesting tidbit can open up a much broader journey.

We at the SSHSA are constantly adding to our collections and expanding our free, standards-aligned, online education program. There are lesson plans and activities for all ages. Learn how to tie knots, listen to podcasts or see artifacts like famous works of art, ship models and ephemera online or in person at the Ship History Center.

[Please click here to give generously and help us share them with the world.](#)

Our Board of Directors and staff are hard at work planning for the future of the organization, but donations made to our Annual Fund support current programs and services like our collections, which have

grown considerably in the last two years. How we are able to preserve, display and interpret these items is up to you!

Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time donor, we hope that you will consider a gift to our year-end campaign. Your support will allow us to keep the momentum and stay the course as we preserve (and learn from) maritime history.

Caption: A Jan. 13, 1940, menu celebrating an "Assembly Dinner" aboard Holland America Line's *Nieuw Amsterdam*. The ship was taking part in a West Indies and South America cruise at the time (Photo: SSHSA Archives).

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.

December 2

Arrival of the Christmas Tree Ship

1:00-4:00 PM

Free

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Toledo, OH

www.nmgl.org

December 2

Maritime Merriment fundraiser

5:00 to 9:00 PM

\$10

Los Angeles Maritime Museum

San Pedro, CA

www.lamaritimemuseum.org

December 7

Wounded Veterans in Parks: Underwater Archaeology and the USS *Arizona*

6:30 PM

Free

This event is available both in person and online; [click here to sign up for the live stream](#)

Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Manitowoc, WI

www.wisconsinmaritime.org

December 8

Christmas at the Lighthouse Gala

7:00 to 10:00 PM

Call 361-729-1271 or

email execasst@texasmaritimemuseum.org for ticket information

Texas Maritime Museum

Rockport, Texas

www.texasmaritimemuseum.org

Various dates December 8-23

Lantern Light Village

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

\$29 for adults, \$24 for children age 4-12 and free for children age 3 and younger

[Click here for dates and information](#)

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, CT

www.mysticseaport.org

December 9

Christmas in Cortez

1:00 to 4:00 PM

Free

Florida Maritime Museum

Cortez, FL

www.floridamaritimemuseum.org

December 10 and 17

Parade of Lights Holiday Dinner

4:00 to 8:00 PM

\$70 for adults; \$35 for children ages 3-12; children ages 2 and under free (dinner not included) with the purchase of an adult ticket

Maritime Museum of San Diego

San Diego, CA

www.sdmaritime.org



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Bryan Lucier, Editor, Ahoy!

SSHSA is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization funded by donations from members and friends. SSHSA is dedicated to sharing the maritime heritage of powerful ships, legendary passengers and hardworking crews. Gifts to SSHSA are appreciated and may be considered tax-deductible.

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