

SSHSA Award Winners 2014 - 2011

2014

Ship of the Year – *EDWARD M. COTTER*

Steamship Historical Society of America is proud to recognize Fireboat *Edward M. Cotter* as the 2014 Ship of the Year. The *Edward M. Cotter* has served for more than one hundred years with the Buffalo Fire Department, where she has served as both a fireboat and the sole ice-breaking resource. The *Edward M. Cotter* is the oldest working fireboat in the world, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1996.

Yacht of the Year - *APHRODITE*

This award is in recognition of the meticulous reconstruction and restoration of the commuter yacht, *Aphrodite*. Launched in 1937, this 74-foot yacht was owned by James Hay Whitney of Long Island until 1942, where she was commissioned as a CGR-557. She fell into disrepair in the 1960s-1970s, and was later delivered to Brooklyn Boat Yard in 2003. After completing historical documentation and replacement and restoration of the original backbone, stem, floors, hull planking, and frame, the *Aphrodite* sailed again in late 2005. Steamship Historical Society of America is proud to observe *Aphrodite* as the 2014 Yacht of the Year.

Tugboat of the Year - *Wallace Foss*

Wallace Foss was built in 1899 and worked as a towing vessel until the 1990s, when she was acquired and converted for use as a “live aboard.” This tugboat was consistently maintained and restored throughout her one hundred plus years of service. SSHSA is pleased to recognize the *Wallace Foss* as the 2014 Tugboat of the Year.

C. Bradford Mitchell Award - Mr. John Henry

John Henry is a journalist and author based in New York City. His book, *Great White Fleet: Celebrating Canada Steamship Lines Passenger Ships*, was timed to coincide with the company's centennial last year. In recognition of his dedicated service to the field of maritime heritage, Steamship Historical Society of America is proud to present Mr. John Henry with the 2014 C. Bradford Mitchell Award.

Jay Allen Award for Editorial Service to SSHSA - Mr. Geoffrey Hamer

From the beginning of his tenure as the Overseas Editor in 1977, Geoffrey Hamer served SSHSA's flagship publication *Steamboat Bill* both graciously and professionally, and continued to do so in *PowerShips* through 2013. His thirty-seven years of dedication and commitment to SSHSA is what makes our Society flourish, and we are truly grateful for his support and service. Steamship Historical Society of America is pleased to present Mr. Geoffrey Hamer with the 2014 Jay Allen Award.

Samuel Ward Stanton Award for Lifetime Achievement - Mr. Dennis Hale

Steamship Historical Society of America is proud to recognize Mr. Dennis Hale with the Samuel Ward Stanton Award in recognition of his maritime service, and for his willingness to share his story of being the sole survivor of the *Daniel J. Morrell* in his book, *Shipwrecked: Reflections of the Sole Survivor*. Mr. Hale was SSHSA's Keynote Speaker at the Awards Gala during ShiPosium III in Newport, Rhode Island.

H. Graham Wood Award Award for Distinguished Service to SSHSA - CDR John Hamma

CDR John Hamma was an active member of SSHSA from 1968-2014. He served with distinction as a board member since 2009, and National President from 2011-2014. He was a decisive and inspirational leader with a strong vision for the future, a trusted crewmember, and a loyal friend. This award recognizes his exceptional contribution to the Society and its mission, and his long and selfless service. His leadership and hard work have given SSHSA a clear mission and set us on the right course for the future.

2013

Ship of the Year - MV *COHO*

MV *Coho*, the historic car and passenger ferry of the Black Ball Ferry Line, was the Steamship Historical Society of America's 2013 Ship of the Year. *Coho* was also a featured presenter during ShiPosium II in Long Beach, California.

Coho was designed by highly respected Pacific Northwest naval architect Philip Spaulding, and was built at the Puget Sound Bridge and Drydock Company as the prototype of the first vessels of the British Columbia Provincial Government Ferry System. Since its first service in December 1959, the *Coho* has continuously operated year-round and transported more than 21 million passengers and six million vehicles across the Straits of Juan de Fuca between Port Angeles, Washington and the Inner Harbor of Vancouver Island in Victoria, British Columbia. To this day, the ship flies on her masthead a version of the original Black Ball Line house flag of the Black Ball sailing packets. The *Coho* is the last of the privately owned passenger- and vehicle-carrying vessels meeting USCG and SOLAS rules operating in international service under the U.S. Flag.

Museum Ship of the Year - USS *IOWA*

The battleship USS *Iowa* is the Steamship Historical Society's 2013 Museum Ship of the Year, in recognition of the establishment of the Pacific Battleship Center and the Center's mission to "celebrate the American spirit through the preservation and interpretation of the Battleship *Iowa*, to educate the public on the accomplishments and sacrifices of American patriots, and to engage our guests in unique and exciting ways that bring the ship to life by connecting the past with the future."

The battleship was built in 1940 and served during World War II and the Korean War, and overall served the United States for more than 50 years. During her time in service *Iowa* hosted more American Presidents than any other naval ship. Today *Iowa* is the only battleship on the West Coast open to the public, operated by the non-profit Pacific Battleship Center on the Los Angeles waterfront.

Tug of the Year – *ANGELS GATE*

Angels Gate, stewarded by the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro, California, was built in 1944 in Decatur, Alabama for the Army Transportation Service. Known then as ST-695, the tug served at the Army Port of Embarkation in Wilmington, California. *Angels Gate* was sold after World War II to the Port of Los Angeles where she continued to provide towing services and goodwill tours. In 1992 *Angels Gate* arrived the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, which remains today steward of the historic tug.

Angels Gate provides tours of Los Angeles Harbor and serves as the Boat Operations classroom for the Port of Los Angeles High School. *Angels Gate* is operated and maintained by a volunteer crew and USCG-licensed captains.

C. Bradford Mitchell Award – Martin Cox

Mr. Martin Cox of Los Angeles, California, is an SSHSA member and founder of the website MaritimeMatters (www.maritimematters.com). MaritimeMatters is a prominent web resource for maritime news and history, and SSHSA is proud to present this award to Mr. Cox for this significant contribution to modern maritime heritage.

Jay Allen Award for Editorial Service to SSHSA – William DuBarry Thomas

Mr. William DuBarry Thomas is a past president of SSHSA and writer of the column "Heard on the Fantail" in SSHSA's publications *Steamboat Bill* and *PowerShips* for 20 years. Mr. Thomas has contributed greatly to the success of SSHSA and its publications and we're proud to give him this reward as a thank you for his years of dedication.

2012

Ship of the Year Award – NS SAVANNAH

The NS *Savannah* is the first nuclear-powered steam merchant ship, the only such vessel built in the United States, and one of only four such ships ever built worldwide. Steamship Historical Society of America was proud to observe N/S *Savannah's* golden anniversary by naming her the 2012 Ship of the Year. SSHSA also recognizes the ongoing efforts by the NS Savannah Foundation and MARAD in preserving this extraordinary vessel.

Museum Ship of the Year – SS LANE VICTORY

The 2012 Museum Ship Award is bestowed on the SS *Lane Victory* in recognition of her

significance as one of only two operational World War II era Victory Ships. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark and restored by hundreds of volunteers, she continues to steam under her own original power today as a living, breathing link to America's past.

Jay Allen Award for Distinguished Editorial Service – Jack Shaum

Jack Shaum was a longtime editor-in-chief for SSHSA' quarterly, Steamboat Bill, where he provided outstanding expertise and guidance. He was instrumental in transitioning the publication into PowerShips Magazine, and SSHSA is thankful to present him this away in thanks for such important leadership.

H. Graham Wood Award Award for Distinguished Service to SSHSA – CDR John Williams

CDR John Williams joined SSHSA in 1989 and served on the society's Board from 2003 to 2012. He served as Treasurer from 2004 to 2009. He was a certified Marine Surveyor and a member of the National Association of Marine Surveyors, and President of Williams Marine Consulting, LLC. John was a 1961 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York and served in the U.S. Coast Guard with the rank of Commander upon his retirement. Born and raised in Connecticut, he made his home in New Orleans, Louisiana where he passed away in April 2012. We will miss his dedication, friendship, and sea tales, and he won't be forgotten.

2011

Ship of the Year - Cruiser *OLYMPIA*

The *Olympia* (C-6) is the oldest steel warship afloat in the world. The warship was decommissioned in 1922, and in 1957 the Cruiser Olympia Association took ownership until 1996 when the vessel became part of Philadelphia's Independence Seaport Museum's (ISM) Historic Ship Zone. Despite ISM's heroic efforts, *Olympia* still requires approximately \$20 million to repair significant hull corrosion and to ensure adequate maintenance going forward. During a spring 2010 summit, parties interested in purchasing the vessel gathered at ISM to discuss plans for her future.

Built at Union Iron Works in San Francisco and launched in 1892, *Olympia* is similar to many early steel warships built for the US Navy. The *Olympia* remains the only surviving naval ship from the Spanish-American War, and served as Admiral Dewey's flagship at the Battle of Manila Bay. The vessel served during World War I, and in 1921 carried the body of the Unknown Soldier from France to the United States as its last official naval mission. *Olympia* is a National Historic Landmark, a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, and part of the Save America's Treasures program

Tugboat of the Year - *LUNA*

Luna, a National Historic Landmark moored in Boston, was the first commercial diesel-electric ship-docking tug of its kind and played an important role in the development of Boston Harbor.

Today she is maintained by the Luna Preservation Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the tugboat. She is the last surviving full-sized wooden tug on both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and represents the thousands of wooden tugs that were built between the 1840s and 1930s, which helped to build the eastern half of coastal America. *Luna* has recently undergone major refurbishing.

C. Bradford Mitchell Award - Robert C. Smith

Mr. Robert H. Smith is the author of the terrific book *Maritime Museums of North America*. Mr. Smith is completing his eighth edition of this book, a comprehensive guide to maritime museums and museum ships of North America, which include a surprising grouping of over 700 institutions. It is a handy reference and travel guide for anyone embarking on a road trip and who wants to include maritime-related exhibits. We thank Mr. Smith for his dedication and expertise in compiling this information, which is available in print and online at www.maritimemuseums.net.

H. Graham Wood Award-2011 - Robert C. Cleasby

Robert C. Cleasby, SSHSA's Immediate Past President, receives the **H. Graham Wood Award** for Distinguished Service to SSHSA. Mr. Cleasby served as President of the Society from 2002 to 2011, and was a member of the Board of Directors prior to that. As President, he devoted many hours of time and effort to the Society. He is a visionary, an engaging speaker, and he was an excellent "face of the Society" for all those years. Our appreciation goes out to Mr. Cleasby with the presentation of this award.

Samuel Ward Stanton Award - Dr. Robert D. Ballard

Robert D. Ballard's monumental work in underwater archaeology has put not only his name but maritime history and heritage into every household. Mr. Ballard's exhaustive investigations include dives and documentation of the RMS *Titanic*, the World War I German battleship *Bismark*, the World War I sinking of the Cunard liner *Lusitania*, many wrecks of the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal, the USS *Yorktown*, another World War II Pacific Theater casualty, and John F. Kennedy's boat, the PT-109. In addition to documenting maritime history through his deep sea explorations, he led the way in the development of deep submergence exploration technology. Dr. Ballard is President of the Institute for Exploration, Director of the Institute for Archaeological Oceanography at URI, and Scientist Emeritus at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. In addition to his oceanographic and maritime research and explorations, Dr. Ballard is an adamant supporter of sea education. The JASON Project, founded by Dr. Ballard in 1989, connects millions of school children with science and exploration projects across the country.

Jay Allen Award - Skip Gillham

Skip has been our dedicated *Steamboat Bill* and *PowerShips* Great Lakes/Seaway columnist for more than 37 years with 150 columns to his credit. He has an avid interest in Great Lakes ships as well as saltwater ships that visit the lakes. Skip has authored more than 25 books, mostly related to Great Lakes shipping. He is representative of the many volunteers who make the Steamship Historical Society of America a live, functioning repository of the history of engine-

powered vessels. We truly appreciate his dedication and his contributions over the years, and we take great pleasure in presenting him with the Jay Allen Award.