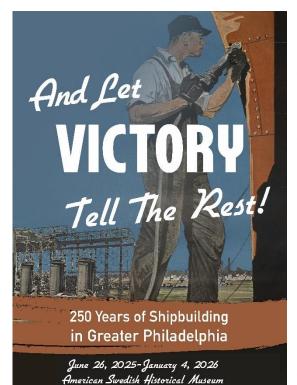
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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Celebrate 250 Years of the US Navy at ASHM! And Let Victory Tell the Rest! 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia June 26, 2025 – January 4, 2026



Philadelphia, PA- The US Navy commemorates its 250th anniversary in 2025, and Philadelphia is an especially fitting place to celebrate. Discover some of the Navy's most iconic and historic vessels that were built right here by Philadelphians, as *And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia* opens at the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM).

Curated by the National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN) with art and artifacts from their collection, this exhibit traces the roles which the people of Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley had in developing America's Navy over the past 250 years. Exhibition visitors will have the special opportunity to see artifacts like the engine room clock of the famed ironclad warship USS *New Ironsides* and a 1862 half model of the John Ericsson-designed ironclad USS *Passaic* while learning about the tens of thousands of workers who left an indelible mark on American history at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and

other privately-owned shipyards which built and maintained US Naval vessels.

On October 13, 1775, in Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress established the Navy with a resolution authorizing the acquisition of two small warships. During the Revolution, Pennsylvania State House delegates debated creating a navy that might challenge Great Britain's famed and feared Royal Navy. Denounced by one delegate as the "maddest idea," other delegates took up the challenge. Today, the US Navy has hundreds of ships and tens of thousands of sailors that will come together to celebrate this milestone in Philadelphia and beyond.

And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia will be on view at ASHM from June 26, 2025 through January 4, 2026. Admission is included with

ASHM general tickets. ASHM is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and weekends 12:00 - 4:00 pm.

Museum admission is free for all military personnel, veterans, and their families during the run of the exhibition (June 26, 2025-January 4, 2026) generously sponsored by Philadelphia Gear.

And Let Victory Tell the Rest was curated by the National Museum of the United States Navy. It is part of Homecoming250, a citywide celebration of this historic anniversary in Philadelphia. In addition to And Let Victory Tell the Rest, NMUSN is hosting an interactive experience in downtown Philadelphia and has partnered with Battleship New Jersey and the Library Company of Philadelphia on additional exhibits to mark the milestone.



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We are grateful for support from the ASHM Auxiliary, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Midsommarklubben, Red Moose Charitable Trust, SWEA Philadelphia, and an anonymous foundation. Funding for the American Swedish Historical Museum is supported by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Exhibition Events: And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia Opening Wednesday, June 25th 5:00 – 7:00 pm Join ASHM and the National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN) for a grand opening reception.

This exhibition, curated by NMUSN, explores the production of American naval ships in the Delaware Valley, tracing the roles which the people of Philadelphia and the surrounding areas had in developing America's Navy over the past 250 years. NMUSN Curator Gordon Calhoun and ASHM Curator Brett Peters will circulate in the exhibit throughout the evening to discuss this fascinating aspect of industrial naval history and its Swedish connections.

The reception is free and open to the public with remarks at 5:45 pm. Enjoy catered refreshments and drinks. Please RSVP on our website help us plan. <u>https://www.americanswedish.org/events/exhibition-opening-and-let-victory-tell-rest-250-years-shipbuilding-greater-philadelphia</u>

Virtual Lecture: US Navy Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia with Gordon Calhoun September 12th

12:00 pm

Anchors aweigh! Join Gordon Calhoun Curator and Historian for the National Museum of the US Navy for a virtual lunchtime lecture that highlights the rich legacy of naval

shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia. Delving into the pivotal role the area played in building the might of the U.S. Navy from the Revolutionary War through the 20th century, this virtual lecture explores industrial innovations, the importance of shipyards like the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and some of the individuals who helped turn blueprints into battleship.

Gordon Calhoun is a Historian and Curator at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy. A graduate of the College of the Wooster and Old Dominion University, he has worked with Navy museums for 27 years as a curator, editor, and historian and has given numerous talks on a variety of U.S. Naval subjects.

Navy Free Family Day

Sunday, October 12th

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us for a Free Family Day at the American Swedish Historical Museum inspired by ships and shipbuilding! Explore And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia, and try out engineering and nautical-themed activities in the Museum galleries, including US Navy LEGO shipbuilding with the Kalmar Nyckel!

Navy Yard Tour

Thursday, October 2nd 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join ASHM and tour leader CAPT Francis Spencer, USN (Ret.), for a guided trolley tour of the historic Philadelphia Navy Yard, including both its U.S. Navy history and its more recent commercial history. The Navy Yard has been at its site for over 150 years. Until the 1990s, when the Navy closed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, it was exclusively a Federal facility serving ship repair, ship construction, ship systems engineering, and aviation missions. Some U.S. Navy activities & related activities still operate in the Navy Yard, and the tour will include a description of their missions. The tour will also cover some of the more recent commercial activities that occupy the Navy Yard today and give a sense of their benefits to the Philadelphia community.

The program will begin at ASHM for a brief tour of *And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia* with Curator Brett Peters, followed by departure in the trolley to the Navy Yard. Following the tour, participants will eat at Shop 543 Café before boarding the trolley back to ASHM.

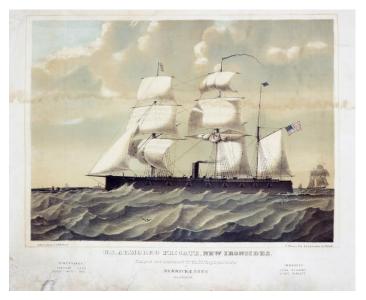
Virtual Lecture on John Ericsson

November TBD

ASHM will host a virtual lecture about Swedish-American engineer John Ericsson, designer of the USS *Monitor*, the first ironclad warship commissioned by the US Navy.

Images:





Albert Murray USS Boise at Philadelphia Navy Yard Drydock Oil on canvas, 1943 Courtesy Naval History and Heritage Command/ Navy Art Collection, 1988-195-J

William H. Rease U.S. Armored Frigate, New Ironsides Lithograph, 1862 Courtesy of Navy Art Collection, NHHC 2003-46-43





Oliver W. Waterman USS Michigan Glass Negative Photograph, 1918 Naval History and Heritage Command, NH 106439 United States Navy Bureau of Ships USS Saratoga (CV-3): Booklet of General Plans -Outboard Profile Starb'd / Inboard Profile India ink on paper Courtesy of National Archives, NAID 167818723

THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

About NMUSN:

The National Museum of the US Navy, located in Washington, DC, is one of ten US Navy museums managed by the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), the Navy's official history agency. In addition to museums, NHHC oversees the management of thousands of artifacts and official Navy documents, two historic ships, and has its own dedicated underwater archeology team. Learn more about NHHC and how you can help the Navy commemorate the Navy's 250th birthday at history.navy.mil or www.navy.mil/Navy-250.

About ASHM:

Visit the American Swedish Historical Museum to learn the forgotten history of Swedes in Philadelphia. Built in 1926 during the Sesquicentennial, the Museum has a unique interior divided into a dozen galleries designed to highlight Scandinavian influences in America. The galleries explore a range of topics including the New Sweden Colony, women's history, scientific innovations, and Swedish craft arts. ASHM hosts a variety of programs from Swedish holiday celebrations to history lectures to family programs.

The American Swedish Historical Museum welcomes everyone to explore cultural identity through stories of Swedes and all Scandinavians and to connect with a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and interpreting culture through celebrations, exhibitions, and opportunities to learn, experience, and grow. No matter your age or interests, ASHM has something for you! Visit our website <u>www.americanswedish.org</u> to learn more.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's NRG/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (to Pattison) can bring you right to the Museum.