

*follow the Boys in Blue
for Home and Country*



National Museum of the American Sailor

**May 2023
Newsletter**

Ahh, spring! A time for renewal, rebirth, and all things new. Even history museums enjoy new things sometimes. Recently acquired artifacts, new Navy leadership, and fun fresh programming all reinvigorate NMAS this spring. Page two outlines three new initiatives coming to Fridays at the museum, including youth activities and veteran Sea Stories. Read on for opportunities for how you can get involved and discover the newest additions to our collection.

"The Navy is a living, breathing institution that must adapt to changing times."

ADMIRAL JAMES G. STAVRIDIS

Sailor Spotlight: MCPON James Honea



James Honea assumed the duties of the sixteenth Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy in September 2022. He comes to the position with an impressive service history. The son of an Air Force veteran, Honea began his military career in 1987, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His first command was aboard the USS *John A. Moore* (FFG 19) where he was rated as a Boatswain's Mate. He rose through the ranks serving aboard USS *Juneau* (LPD 10), USS *Dubuque* (LPD 8), and USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6). In 2006 he was promoted to master chief and in 2009, he was selected to serve as a command master chief and completed tours aboard the USS *Gridley* (DDG 101) and later on USS *New Orleans* (LPD 18).

As MCPON, Honea's priorities are 1. Build combat teams, 2. Build teams that out-think our adversaries, and 3. Build stability in the lives of our sailors and their families.

New This Summer: Fridays at NMAS

Guided Museum Tours

Every Friday at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Come see the museum galleries in a new light! Docent-led tours are now available every Friday at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. These 30-minute gallery walks include stories not shared in the exhibit panels, behind-the-scenes stories of creating these exhibits, and an opportunity to ask your burning Navy questions.

Registration not required. Tours meet by the Navy Mission wall.

Sea Stories

Every Other Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Sailors are known for their elaborate stories from their travels around the world. Now is your chance to hear those stories straight from the horse's (err goat's?) mouth. Every other Friday, Navy veterans and active duty sailors are on duty to share their stories with you. Ask them about their bootcamp days, their favorite ports, the food; the possibilities are endless.

Sea Stories begins on Friday, May 5 and repeats every other week.

Drop Anchor Programs

Every Other Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Get hands on history with our new Drop Anchor programs. For kids, and kids at heart, these interactive activities teach sailor skills, including knot tying and the all-important hardtack recipe. Participants make and take a project each program.

Drop Anchor begins on Friday, June 9 and repeats every other week. Activities change each week.

**EDUCATION
AND EVENTS**



SEA STORIES
WITH A NAVY VETERAN



Blog Post: Catch Up on Past Blog Posts

In lieu of a new blog post this month, you're encouraged to check out previous posts you may have missed. Did you know [Adolf Hitler's nephew](#) served in the Navy? What about [Public Enemy #1 John Dillinger](#)?



Not interested in the Navy's more infamous names? How about something fun, like [food](#)? Or [fashion](#)? Or [baseball](#)? There's something for everyone at Sailor's Attic, NMAS' home for all the uncovered gems in sailor history.

COLLECTIONS
AND
RESEARCH

Artifact Spotlight: *New Acquisitions*

As museum staff continue research for the newest permanent exhibit about the Age of Steel, the collections team have been searching for artifacts from that era for potential use in the exhibit.

Among the recent acquisitions are a series of archival documents and photographs. Standing as the figurehead of the era, photographs of the USS *Olympia* and her crew are a given for any exhibit about this age of steel and steam. A ledger from 1903 provides a glimpse into the financial resources of sailors in that era, and a *Great Lakes Recruit* from the mid-1910s showcases the status of recruit training during this time. These items may be on display in the future, but as staff continues to source artifacts, only time will tell which objects make it to center stage.



We're Ready for a Facelift

The museum's largest artifact is actually the building itself and it's a constant work in progress to take care of this historic building. Built in 1942, the wood-sided structure has seen its share of changes. But one thing that hasn't changed over the last 80+ years is the siding! What was once a beautiful modern structure has become a favorite landing site for every woodpecker in



northern Illinois. As a result, the siding is in dire need of replacement. Over the next year, the original wood siding will be replaced with practical, sustainable cement board that mimics the look of the original wood siding. While this work is going on, the contractors will also switch out the square windows with rectangular transom windows, just like architect Gordon Bunshaft originally installed in 1942.

This project is expected to impact museum operations, so keep an eye on the museum's website and social media for any restoration-related closures.

EXHIBITS

Join the Sea Stories Team

Are you a Navy veteran or active duty sailor who loves regaling your friends with sea stories? We've got the job for you! Beginning in May, Sea Stories volunteers will be sharing their experiences with recruit graduation families on Fridays.

To join this group, please contact NHHC_NMAS@us.navy.mil.

VOLUNTEERS
AND
OUTREACH



SEA STORIES

WITH A NAVY VETERAN

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN SAILOR**

WE ARE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS!

**SATURDAY
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

Help us tell the story of the United States Navy's enlisted sailor! The National Museum of the American Sailor has a wide variety of positions available to volunteers. There are several new and exciting volunteer opportunities. We're currently in need of volunteers to help as:

- Exhibits and Facilities Assistant
- Front Desk Greeter(s)

INTERESTED IN COMING ABOARD?

**REACH OUT TO US AT:
(847) 688-3154 X215 OR
NHHC_NMAS@US.NAVY.MIL**

