



Return to Homeport

HOMECOMING TRADITIONS

When Navy ships and crew return home from deployment, family and friends pack the pier, excitedly awaiting their Sailors! Here are some common Navy homecoming traditions that make this event very special for all who attend.



MANNING THE RAIL

As far back as 1596, Sailors stood side-by-side along the perimeter of the ship to "make the bravest show and appear the greater number" when arriving in port.



MOORED! SHIFT COLORS!

This phrase is called out when the first mooring line of the ship touches the pier. The ship's colors are then shifted to her in-port colors.



FIRST KISS

Sailors buy fundraiser raffle tickets for a chance to win the "first kiss" on the pier. This also means they'll be one of the first off the ship--a coveted opportunity!



A DJ PROVIDES ENTERTAINMENT



THE NAVY BAND PLAYS MUSIC



MASCOTS

Sometimes, someone will dress up as the ship's mascot and entertain the crowd during a homecoming.



LEI MAKING

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) makes a giant lei that the ship will receive upon returning home. The lei is made of many trash bags.



NEW DADS

New dads are one of the first groups of Sailors to receive liberty after returning to homeport.



SIGN MAKING

Families and friends pack the pier with handmade signs to welcome their Sailors home. The FRG helps plan these sign making activities.



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OTHER WAYS WE WELCOME OUR SAILORS HOME



A FLOCK OF DOVES IS RELEASED



A TENT IS SET UP FOR REFRESHMENTS



FAMILIES TAKE THEIR SAILORS OUT FOR A MEAL