JAMES KIRKE PAULDING


From February 7, 1815, to November 9, 1823, he was Secretary to the first Board of Navy Commissioners, consisting of Commodores Hull, Porter and Rodgers.

He was appointed Navy Agent at New York January 8, 1824, resigning June 25, 1838, to enter the cabinet of President Van Buren as Secretary of the Navy, a position which he held from July 1, 1838, to March 5, 1841.

He was greatly opposed to the introduction of steamships and engineers into the Navy, and in some correspondence wrote that he "never would consent to see our grand old ships supplanted by these new and ugly sea monsters", and exclaimed, "I am steamed to death".

The Torpedo boat Destroyer JAMES K. PAULDING was named for Secretary Paulding. It was launched April 20, 1920, at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, N.J. His great-granddaughter, Miss Mary Hubbard Paulding, was the sponsor.