World War II Exhibits Now Open

Houston Maritime Museum is proud to announce the completion of our two remodeled World War II exhibits. These rooms were part of a bigger project beginning with the exhibit “USS Houston: Ships Named in Honor” that opened in March. Now, guests can learn the stories of the ships named after our city, and then explore naval aspects of World War II in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Titled “The Battle of the Atlantic,” the first WWII room covers the longest military campaign of the entire war. From the first day of the war on September 3, 1939 to the very last on May 8, 1945, German submarines, called U-boats, engaged in a protracted war to sink merchant ships bound for Europe. In this new exhibit, guests will learn of the Allied struggle to fight this undersea threat, and how each side utilized code-breaking and new technology to gain an upper hand. Additionally, the room focuses on the few U-boats that operated along the U.S. East Coast and those that ventured into the Gulf of Mexico.

On the other side of the globe, the American and Japanese navies clashed in the largest naval war in history. The second exhibit titled “The Pacific War” tells the stories of the major battles and famous warships from the period. The war in the Pacific forever shaped naval warfare, as the aircraft carrier and submarine ascended to the throne as the kings of the sea. The exhibit includes compelling visuals to illustrate the scale of some of the largest ships ever built.

We hope to see you at HMM soon to explore these new exhibits!

Letter from our Chairman
We have been working for months on a lease for the new building we are planning for the museum. We are close to achieving this and will have some exciting news in the near future. Reflecting on this long and complicated process now leads me to remember how essential volunteers are to the success of any non-profit. This museum has competent and dedicated staff but could not function without the conscientious efforts of dedicated volunteers. Every phase of what we do is only possible because of them.

One example comes readily to mind right now because of our lease negotiations. Mary Axelrad is a prominent attorney here in Houston. Knowing we needed expert advice in the field of real estate we cast about for someone willing to volunteer for our cause. Mary was highly recommended and readily agreed to assist us by reviewing and suggesting changes for a lease. I am convinced her time and talent were of paramount importance to this effort. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude. She is just one example of the dedicated and competent volunteers without whom we could not make this museum a successful part of the Houston community of non-profit organizations. Thank you, Mary. And thank you to all our volunteers. It is my privilege to work with you for the success of Houston Maritime Museum.

Robert A. Fry, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees
President & CEO, Marinus Corporation

Become a Docent!

Do you want to give back to the community and make friends in the process? Do you enjoy having conversations about history and the maritime world?

Become a docent at Houston Maritime Museum!

Individuals of all backgrounds and skill sets are welcome to become docents. Don’t know much about the maritime world, but still want to be involved? No problem! Docents receive training including a museum tour guidebook and practice tours with veteran docents.

Houston Maritime Museum relies on docents to carry out our mission. Join the crew today!

For more information contact Matt Doyen at mdoyen@houstonmaritime.org or (713) 666-1910

Upcoming Events @ HMM

Family Days @ HMM
America’s Cup
July 29, 2017 | 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Calling all sports fans! Have you heard about an international sporting competition that began almost a half century before the modern Olympics? How about a race
that features the longest winning streak in sports history?!

Both of these describe the incredible history of the America's Cup!

During this exciting Family Day program, young mariners will discover the magical history of the America's Cup, create their own version of the trophy and schooner, and try their hand at a mini-yacht race of their own!

Free admission all day!

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**Industry Lecture Series**

**The Jones Act at 100 Years: Celebration or Memorial?**

Presented by Stephen C. Hanemann

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

$5 for adults (12 and up) | Free for HMM Members, Veterans, Active Military, and Children under 12

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

First introduced by Washington Senator Wesley L. Jones, the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 was largely intended to buffer the First World War’s shockwave to international trade and preserve the U.S. shipping industry. Effected into law by the 66th U.S. Congress on June 5, 1920, Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, commonly referred to as the Jones Act, established coastwise-trade perimeters for domestic cabotage – the transportation of merchandise or passengers between two U.S. points. Surviving revisions, recodification, and attempted repeal, the Jones Act has become the subject of fierce controversy. Opponents continue to question its effective application while Jones Act advocates staunchly defend its protectionist purpose and valid intent. This retrospective will examine the historical foundation and theme of the Jones Act, as well as provide insight and timely commentary regarding the coastwise law’s application, enforcement, and future viability.

Learn More

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**History Lecture Series**

**Viking Masters of the Northern Seas: From Scandinavia East, West, and South**

Presented by Dr. Sally Vaughn

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

$5 for adults (12 and up) | Free for HMM Members, Veterans, Active Military, and Children under 12

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The Viking Age began in the 8th century, and by the 11th century, the Vikings had Scandinavianized most of the Northern Hemisphere while leaving many questions behind in the process. Why did they leave their home? What were their main tools of expansion, exploration, and discovery? Ships? Masts? Sails? Was this time a Diaspora based on the model of the spread of Jewish 1st century...
dispersion and settlements? Or an Age of Discovery that shares similarities to 15th century Portuguese and Spanish explorers, as well as the merchants and settlers who followed them? Who were these people, anyway? Raiders? Traders? Farmers? Did the Viking Age really end with the death of Magnus Barelegs, the last Viking king, in 1103? Or was it just the beginning?

Learn More

Follow us on social media to stay connected this summer!

Get a behind-the-scenes look at museum collections, learn about our artifacts, and enjoy photos and stories from our events!

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Houston Maritime Museum | 713.666.1910 | www.HoustonMaritime.org

STAY CONNECTED