

From: Windharb@aol.com

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To: ACVA Ship Reps and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Ex-USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) Return to Jacksonville Update

For all of you fine Adams Class DDG Sailors, have a grand time with your yearly reunions!

The **JHNSA** remains very busy with our ongoing efforts for the return of the ex-USS *Charles F. Adams* (DDG-2) from Philadelphia to Jacksonville.

Here are a few of the many things that have happened to date this year:

1). *CROWDRISE* on-line fundraising has brought in over \$36,000 to assist the **JHNSA's** efforts to promote and administer the return of the ship.

2). We have hired Joe Snowberger as our CEO and full time contractor to lead and manage the hundreds of details that need to be followed to coordinate the safe return and eventual opening of the **USS Adams Navy Warship Museum**.

3). In March three former USS *Adams* Officers - Chief Engineer Earle Yerger and Engineering Maintenance Officer Jim Donaldson, joined their former CO, Bob Branco (now the **ACVA** President) to visit the USS *Adams* in Philadelphia to oversee ultrasonic hull testing (UT).

- These men and the contractor the **JHNSA** hired, made dozens of UT readings along the keel inside the hull.

- We are very pleased to report that the USS *Adams* HY-80 5/8th's inch thick steel hull and main deck are both in fine shape.

- The **JHNSA** paid for this contractor to conduct the testing and these men did the trip on their own dime (as has been the case for almost every visit we have made to the ship for the past 5 years) - thank you Shipmates!

- Prior to this, Bob Branco had made another trip to the ship to personally test for lead based paint on the USS *Adams* - none detected!

4). We have selected a private company at the former **Philadelphia Navy Yard** to work for us for the dry docking, preservation and painting of the ship.

5). We have local TV **Channel 4** on board as our official TV broadcast Station and they have been running video clips supporting the '*Return of the Adams*' for months!

6). Our 6 minute video promoting the **USS Adams Navy Warship Museum** effort, won three prominent "Media" awards - see the web site.

7). We are conducting our fourth annual **5 K Run for Veterans** on 8 November 2015 along the north bank of the St. Johns River in Downtown Jacksonville. This growing-in-attendance event is attracting over 700 runners, media and volunteers to **The Jacksonville Landing** to support and publicize the return of the ship.

8). We have continued to bring needed ship restoration - items like Damage Control artifacts of the Cold War Era from the display ship USS *Barry* at the **Washington Navy Yard** - to Jacksonville for storage and eventual placement on the ship.

9). We have a construction bid in hand for the former **Jacksonville Shipyard** pier refurbishment and have commitments from our public utility company, marine engineers, a marine parts company and several other local companies to provide their services to design, build and berth the ship.

- We found the right paint systems we need for the ship's hull and superstructure at a very good price.

- We found 2 replacement guns (barrels only) and are close to locating two sets of MK 32 triple torpedo tubes.

- The interior of the ship is in very good shape - just need a quality field day and painting party for the spaces we want to open for the public.

- We have identified the after most enlisted berthing (Engineering) compartment to accommodate our first overnight guests after restoration.

10). However, most importantly, the City and the **JHNSA** have worked out a lease at \$1 per year for the minimum Navy berth site lease requirement of 10 years one year ago, but when

- The City selected a developer to sell the former **Jacksonville Shipyards** to on 30 April 2015 - that selection changed our lease agreement.

- Negotiations continue between the City and the Developer, *Iguanas, LLC* a company under the owner of the **Jacksonville Jaguars NFL Football Team**.

-The **JHNSA** is regularly meeting with both of these entities and need the new owners approval to moor the ship at our chosen site.

11). Please remember, there is no free lunch here, we need the new property owner's agreement **and** we have to be able to afford the new owner's lease at the mooring site.

- This mooring site is the one you see on our web site and is right across the E Bay Street location of the **Maxwell House Coffee Plant**.

- This is a terrific location for a Navy Warship Museum what with the memory of the tons of coffee we all used to drink or use for bartering for things

12). Money is always an immediate need.

- When we get the aforementioned site approvals, we need immediate funds in hand, pledged funds or approved lines of credit to get moving with the dry docking, the tow, and concurrently working on the mooring site downtown.

- Many Adams Class Ship reunion groups have visited our **USS Adams Class Visitor Center at The Jacksonville Landing** and continue to be steady donors to the financial cause.

- The Navy has been very patient with our long time efforts to get the ex-USS *Adams* donated to the **JHNSA & ACVA**, but it takes money and volunteers to complete the ship donation to obtain the ship, dry dock and paint the ship, tow it, and moor it at the former **Jacksonville Ship Yards**.

This email memo is an answer tto one of our ACVA Ship Reps asking the following.....

Could I get an update on where we are at with the USS Charles F. Adams. I would like to update our DDG shipmates for our upcoming reunion. I also have a question about the Adams Class Museum. I don't see everything but it seems like most of the PR relates to the USS Adams museum and not much is said about the class. Is a space reserved for each ship of the class or is that a dead issue? I went on the Website and there isn't much info as far as updates.

ACVA and JHNSA says:

The plan is to commemorate ALL 23 US Adams Class ships and those from Germany, Australia and Greece. When we grow the **Adams Class Warship Museum** enough to have a land site (with a building or land based exhibit site), options will be explored to have larger memory spots for all the DDG's.

John

"Bring Home the ADAMS"

John E. O'Neil, Jr.
Executive Director
Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA)
www.USSAdams.com
H- 904-221-7348