

PATRIOTS POINT

★HOME OF THE USS YORKTOWN★

– FACT SHEET –

- Patriots Point Development Authority was established in 1973 by Act 116 of the South Carolina General Assembly.
- **Patriots Point Development Authority is a state agency but receives no state or federal financial assistance for its operations.** All operational and capital expenditures are derived from revenue-producing programs and property assets. We earn what we spend.
- A survey conducted by the College of Charleston in 2008 demonstrated that the business of **Patriots Point Development Authority creates 331 local and regional jobs** and produces an **annual economic impact of \$26,877,000.**
- Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum is home to three National Historic Landmark ships – including the USS YORKTOWN, USS LAFFEY AND USS CLAMAGORE. The museum also supports a Cold War Memorial and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the United States.
- **It is the State of South Carolina’s #1 heritage attraction.**
- **Patriots Point is the only aircraft carrier museum in the world to have all of the top ten most significant aircraft in U.S. carrier aviation history** according to a study released in the Winter 2011 issue of *The Hook* magazine – the official journal of The Tailhook Association.

The top 10 most significant aircraft in U.S. carrier aviation history are as follows:

- 1.) Douglas SBD Dauntless
 - 2.) Grumman F6F Hellcat
 - 3.) McDonnell F-4 Phantom II
 - 4.) Douglas A-4 Skyhawk
 - 5.) Grumman A-6 Intruder
 - 6.) Vought F4U Corsair
 - 7.) Douglas AD Skyraider
 - 8.) Vought F-8 Crusader
 - 9.) Grumman TBF/Eastern TBM Avenger
 - 10.) Grumman F-14 Tomcat
- Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum has the unique privilege to serve as headquarters for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and their official Medal of Honor Museum.
 - Major annual events hosted by Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum throughout the year include: 4th of July Blast, Veterans Day, 9/11 Remembrance and Ghost Ship.
 - The USS YORKTOWN was recently featured in an hour-long episode of the SyFy Channel’s *Ghost Hunters*. The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS) crew said their visit provided some of the most compelling evidence they’ve seen in the history of the program.

REVENUE-PRODUCING PROGRAMS

Camping Programs

In addition to exploring the USS YORKTOWN and experiencing the majesty of one of the nation's most historic aircraft carriers, overnight campers are able to sleep in the berthing areas where sailors once slept and participate in a variety of exciting educational programs, including: astronomy, aviation, journalism, repelling and oceanography. Since the inception of the overnight camping program in 1980, the USS YORKTOWN has welcomed nearly 500,000 campers representing all 50 states. 23,000 overnight campers were berthed aboard the USS YORKTOWN in 2011 alone. This summer, Patriots Point will partner with the Town of Mount Pleasant to offer special summer educational programs.



Education Programs

The Patriots Point Institute of History and Science is one of the most unique education programs in the State of South Carolina. Last year, more than 10,000 third and fifth graders completed the Institute's curriculum course work in science and history. As part of its mission to foster among people pride and patriotism in our nation and its heritage, Patriots Point has initiated a statewide fundraising campaign to assist schools across the state with course fees and transportation fees. Our goal is that every South Carolina student will attend our Institute of History and Science at least once before graduation.



Event Rentals

Patriots Point offers 18 different spaces aboard the ships and on the grounds of the museum to accommodate groups of 15 to 3,500. Over the last year, we have invested in improvements to some of the most popular spaces – including ceiling fans and floor-to-ceiling curtains in HB III and climate control in the Admiral's and Captain's Quarters. We have also added exciting new venues, including The Grove, which is the perfect site for an afternoon concert. Our event spaces offer incomparable views at the most affordable rates in the Charleston area.



Admission Sales

Patriots Point welcomes approximately 230,000 visitors on a yearly basis. This number does not include attendance at special events (i.e. 4th of July Blast, which brings 30,000 attendees to Patriots Point each year), catered events aboard the YORKTOWN, or scouts/other groups staying aboard the ship. It is the number one heritage attraction in the state where visitors of all ages can walk in the footsteps of heroes. The Patriots Point Ship Store is 7,119 square feet and brings in approximately \$1,850,000 in revenue each year.



ABOUT THE USS LAFFEY, USS YORKTOWN, USS CLAMAGORE

USS YORKTOWN (CV-10) – Essex-Class Aircraft Carrier

The YORKTOWN was commissioned on April 15, 1943 and is the 10th aircraft carrier to serve in the United States Navy. This new Essex-Class carrier, initially to have been named the Bon Homme Richard, was renamed while under construction to honor the USS Yorktown (CV-5), which sank at the Battle of Midway in June 1942. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was the sponsor of both USS YORKTOWN carriers – CV-5 and CV-10. YORKTOWN participated significantly in the Pacific Offensive that began in late 1943 and ended with the defeat of Japan in 1945. Much of the 1944 Academy Award-winning documentary *The Fighting Lady* was filmed aboard the YORKTOWN, as well as the 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!*. In December 1968, YORKTOWN recovered the Apollo VIII astronauts and capsule. Yorktown received the presidential Unit Citation and earned 11 battle stars for service in World War II and 5 battle stars for service in Vietnam from 1965-1968. She was decommissioned in 1970, became a museum ship at Patriots Point in 1975, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1980.

USS LAFFEY (DD-724) – Allen M. Sumner-Class Destroyer

The USS LAFFEY was built as an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer by Bath Iron Works in Maine. Commissioned February 8, 1944, LAFFEY supported the D-Day landings at Normandy and participated in the US offensive against Japan. While operating off Okinawa in 1945, LAFFEY was attacked by 22 Japanese bombers and kamikaze (suicide) aircraft. Five kamikazes and three bombs struck her, and two bombs scored near misses to kill 31 and wound 71 of the 336-man crew. LAFFEY shot down nearly half of the attacking aircraft and saved the damaged ship. LAFFEY's heroic crew earned her the nickname: "The Ship That Would Not Die." LAFFEY, the only surviving Sumner-class destroyer in North America, was added to the Patriots Point fleet in 1981, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343) – Balao-Class turned GUPPY III Submarine

Commissioned in June 1945 (too late to see action during World War II), CLAMAGORE served the next 30 years during the Cold War. Although built as a Balao-Class submarine, the Clamagore underwent GUPPY II conversion in 1948 to improve underwater performance; GUPPY was the term used by the Navy for its "Greater Underwater Propulsion Program." The CLAMAGORE was one of only nine submarines converted to GUPPY III when a 15-foot (55 ton) section was added to accommodate upgrades in technology. This was the ultimate upgrade for World War II-era diesel powered submarines. Added to the Patriots Point fleet in 1981, the CLAMAGORE is the only GUPPY III submarine preserved in the United States. (THE USS CLAMAGORE is undergoing maintenance and is not currently open to the public.)