

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Patriots Point Announces Passing of Former Agency Head and Distinguished Veteran Rear Adm. James H. Flatley III

Rear Adm. Flatley served as executive director of Patriots Point Development Authority from 1994 to 2001

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.— Patriots Point Development Authority announces the passing of former agency head and distinguished veteran Rear Adm. James H. Flatley III. Flatley, 91, a longtime Mount Pleasant resident and recipient of South Carolina’s highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, passed away Friday, Dec. 12.

Flatley served as executive director of the Patriots Point Development Authority from 1994 to 2001. He is credited with helping lay the foundation for Patriots Point’s long-term growth, vision and public mission. Following his service with the state of South Carolina, he later helped establish the USS Yorktown Foundation to support the Naval & Maritime Museum and its historic vessels, including the USS Yorktown and USS Laffey.

“We are deeply saddened by the news of Rear Admiral Flatley’s passing,” said Zeb Williams, a member of the Patriots Point Development Authority Board. “Admiral Flatley leaves an extraordinary legacy of service and leadership. Our thoughts are with his family and with all who had the privilege of serving alongside him.”

Flatley was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served as a U.S. Naval aviator from 1956 to 1987. During his military career, he earned numerous decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. In November 1963, he became the first pilot to successfully land a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft on an aircraft carrier.

The Flatley family has deep ties to Navy aviation and the USS Yorktown (CV-10). Flatley’s father, Rear Adm. James H. Flatley Jr., was a distinguished World War II pilot and served as the first air group commander aboard the USS Yorktown during the war. While serving in that role, he made the first landing on the USS Yorktown on May 6, 1943.



PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

Rear Adm. James H. Flatley III is remembered as a dedicated patriot, a thoughtful leader, and a steward of history, service and public trust.

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About Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, on the Charleston Harbor, is the #1 attraction in Mount Pleasant, S.C., and is home to a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the U.S. Patriots Point is also headquarters to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the agency's official Medal of Honor Museum. Visit www.patriotspoint.org for more details or find us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

About the USS Yorktown Foundation

The USS Yorktown Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as the designated fundraising organization for Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum. The Foundation funds educational scholarships, preserves military history, and supports informative exhibits throughout the museum. Through these efforts, the Foundation aims to promote America's traditions of service, leadership, duty, and sacrifice to inspire future generations.

