

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Sam Elkin  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
samantha.elkin@patriotspoint.org

## **Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum Launches** **Year-Long 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*Charleston Landmark Launches Golden Anniversary with Throwback Day Event and New Exhibit Debut.*

**MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.** — Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum will celebrate its 50th anniversary in January 2026, with a kick-off event launching a year-long celebration that honors five decades of safeguarding naval history, amplifying veteran voices, and inspiring new generations through powerful stories of service.

Since opening its gates on January 3, 1976, Patriots Point has evolved into one of the region's most cherished cultural anchors. What started as a bold vision to preserve a single historic aircraft carrier has grown into a destination that has welcomed millions of visitors, from military families and students to curious travelers and community members. This anniversary invites visitors—new and returning—to rediscover the museum's legacy and look ahead to the next horizon.

### **Throwback Day — January 3, 2026**

On January 3, 2026, the museum will host a Throwback Day event marking the anniversary of its official opening. Admission that day will return to its original 1976 price of just \$2. Tickets can be purchased in person or online at [www.patriotspoint.org](http://www.patriotspoint.org).

At 11:00 a.m., a ceremonial ribbon cutting will take place, led by Patriots Point Executive Director Allison Hunt and Mount Pleasant Mayor Will Haynie. This opening moment will officially launch the museum's year-long anniversary celebration and invite visitors into the new Charting 50 Years exhibit, which features the museum's storied journey over the past five decades. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, guests can take part in photo opportunities and enjoy early access to the exhibit's archival material, rarely seen images, and stories that shaped the museum's founding.

At 12:00 p.m., the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets will lead a ceremonial cake cutting with families, veterans, and community partners. Throughout the day, Museum Historian Colby Causey will give brief spotlight talks sharing notable stories and personal anecdotes from the archives.

"This celebration is about looking back with gratitude and forward with purpose," said Patriots Point Executive Director Allison Hunt. "For fifty years, we've connected people to stories of service and sacrifice. The years ahead



# PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

will build on that foundation with fresh programming, deeper engagement, and new ways to inspire visitors.” More anniversary events and special programming will be announced throughout 2026 as Patriots Point honors its past and charts the course for its next fifty years.

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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](http://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.*

