

# TO THE POINT

FALL 2024

The Quarterly Newsletter for Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

## PATRIOTS POINT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum has launched a new website that enhances the visitor experience and provides public access to more than 350 digitized artifacts from the museum's collection. The new site also introduces a suite of innovative features including a customizable itinerary planner and an interactive map of Patriots Point's historic vessels.

"This was a major project for Patriots Point. Our goal was to create a new website that made our online presence just as exciting as a day spent walking in the steps of heroes aboard our ships," said Patriots Point Executive Director, Allison Hunt.

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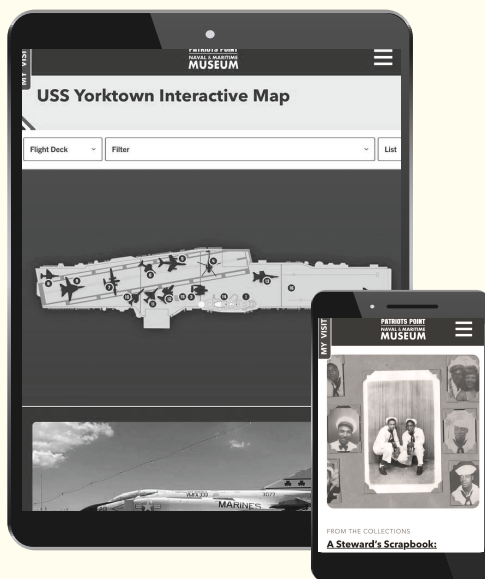
- Allison Hunt

"Our team did a great job at building a digital space that supports the needs and interests of all our guests, whether they are first-time visitors, long-time supporters, or even researchers digging for information about our ships and stories."

This personalized approach was at the forefront of each page's development. Now, history enthusiasts and researchers alike, can delve into our rich naval and maritime heritage anytime. Tailored lists of content allow visitors to find relevant information and plan their visit more effectively.

EXPLORE WEBSITE

CLICK ON AIRCRAFT IN THE INTERACTIVE MAP TO LEARN INTERESTING FACTS!

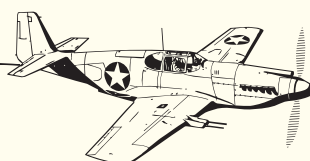


### KEY FEATURES INCLUDE:

**Digitized Catalog:** This meticulously curated archive provides a visual journey through time, featuring images, artifacts, and memorabilia capturing the essence of historical military moments. Users can easily navigate and explore this rich repository, unlocking stories of heroism, camaraderie, and sacrifice.

**Customizable Itinerary:** Visitors can now create personalized itineraries by selecting exhibits, tours, and attractions of interest. With one million square feet of things to educate and engage visitors, this buildable guide helps visitors maximize their experience and ensure they see everything they want.

**Interactive Map:** The new interactive map of the hangar bays and flight deck makes navigating the museum's expansive grounds easier than ever. This feature helps visitors to locate points of interest and efficiently explore the various exhibits and attractions.



### FEATURED EVENT

## LAST ONE OUT KABUL/SAIGON: A CONVERSATION WITH MILITARY LEADERS

Thousands desperate to escape, the horrific images of the United States' departure from both Saigon and Kabul are forever etched in the memories of Americans who watched the events unfold on their television screens. A striking photo of a **CH-46E Sea Knight** flying over the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul elicited immediate visual and emotional parallels with the Fall of Saigon, nearly fifty years before.

On October 15, Patriots Point will host a symposium on the US military's departure from Saigon, Vietnam and Kabul, Afghanistan. Two distinguished commanders from the Charleston area will share their personal experiences in each conflict and provide contextual insight into each situation's complexities and the policies contributing to their results.



### DETAILS

Cost: Free

Date: October 15

Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Location: Smoky Stover Theater, USS Yorktown

*This is a free event and does not require museum admission. Tickets must be reserved in advance through Eventbrite. All attendees ages six and up will be required to have a ticket.*

GET TICKETS

## EXHIBITS & HISTORY

### #STATEROOMSNOOZIN WITH THE CHARLESTON BATTERY

After a tough match, Charleston Battery players Chris Allan and Adam Grinwis were searching for the perfect spot to take a snooze. They decided to stroll over to the museum and check out the USS Yorktown.



The two were exploring along a tour route when they spied our new exhibit, the Officers' Staterooms—the perfect place to kick up their feet! Find out how their sailor siesta fared on Instagram, at @patriots\_point.



#### Officer's Staterooms

These four-compartment berthing quarters provide a glimpse into the living environment afforded to the officers' rank. Bunked one or two to a room, their accommodations included wardrobes, a sink, desk, and more comfortable beds than the standard enlisted bunks.



The refurbished spaces reflect 1940s-era and 1960s-era compartments. The addition of air conditioning in the 1960s compartments is a noteworthy contrast.

## STORIES AT SEA

### Wing & a Prayer: The Joseph Kristufek Collection

Joseph Rudolf Kristufek served as a pilot with Torpedo Squadron Five (VT-5) during World War II. Primarily flying a TBF Avenger torpedo bomber, VT-5 made up part of the USS Yorktown's powerful arsenal on their first trip into the Pacific.



Kristufek said of his squadron, "Personally, I think that VT-5 is the best outfit, but I could be prejudiced." VT-5 would be stationed aboard the USS Yorktown until the end of her first war cruise in 1944.



During the Yorktown's shakedown cruise, a film crew captured footage for a Hollywood movie, A Wing and a Prayer: The Story of Carrier X. The film told a fictionalized reimagining of the Battle of Coral Sea and Battle of Midway. Kristufek and his Avenger would take center stage when footage of one of his many practice runs deploying a torpedo became part of the climactic film finale.

While Kristufek and his torpedo plane were now technically film stars, it was their wartime service aboard the Yorktown that would endear them to a grateful nation. From the quiet monotony of a pilot waiting for his next mission to harrowing flights through anti-aircraft flak, the Joseph Kristufek collection provides a glimpse into life aboard the Yorktown from the view of a torpedo bomber.

[READ MORE STORIES](#)

## FRIENDS OF THE FLEET



### WE WANT YOU AS A FRIEND OF THE FLEET!

- ★ Free Museum Entry
- ★ Priority Booking
- ★ Tour & Onsite Discounts
- ★ Partner Discounts
- ★ Exclusive Member Events
- ★ And More!

Visit [patriotspoint.org/membership](http://patriotspoint.org/membership) to learn about all the ways you can save by becoming a member!



## THE FUNNIES

# EVENTS ON THE SHIP

**9/11 Silent Walk \***  
September 11 | 10:30 a.m.

**Second Saturdays**  
September 14

**Holes Fore Heroes \***  
October 7 | 9:30 a.m.

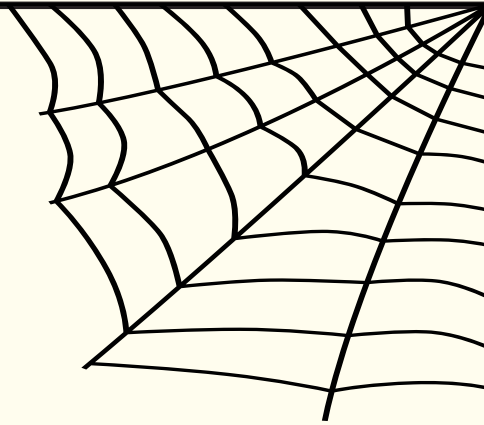
**Yoga on the Yorktown**  
October 9 | 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
October 30 | 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

**USS Yorktown Association Reunion Meet & Greet**  
October 12 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Veteran's Day with Patriot Art Foundation**  
November 9 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Sailor Art Exhibition**  
Hangar Bay 3, USS Yorktown  
September 1 - 30

*\* Some or all of this event will take place offsite.*



**Trick or Treat on the USS Yorktown**  
October 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

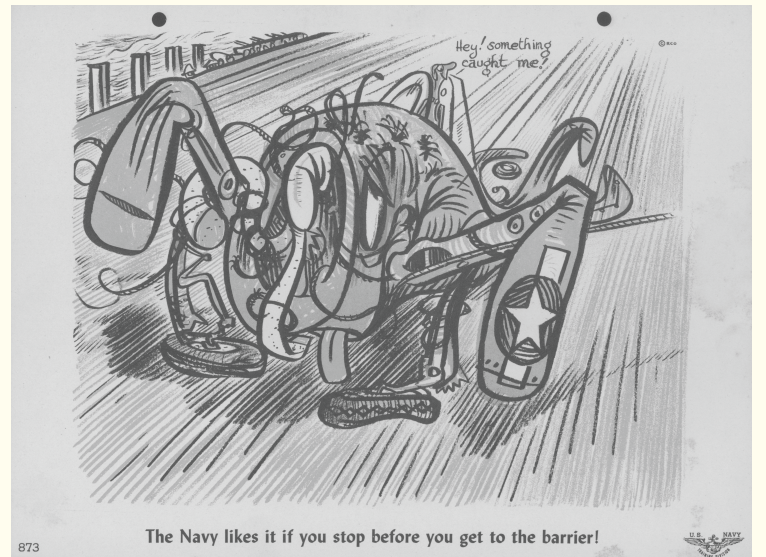
The annual Trick or Treat is back with games, reenactors, contests, and special guests from Just Bee [@justbeethechange] and the Summerville Family YMCA [@sfymca]. This is a free event; ticket required. Don't miss out on this spook-tacular event, reserve your spot today through Eventbrite!

Follow us on social media for details on how to enter our costume contest and win a prize!

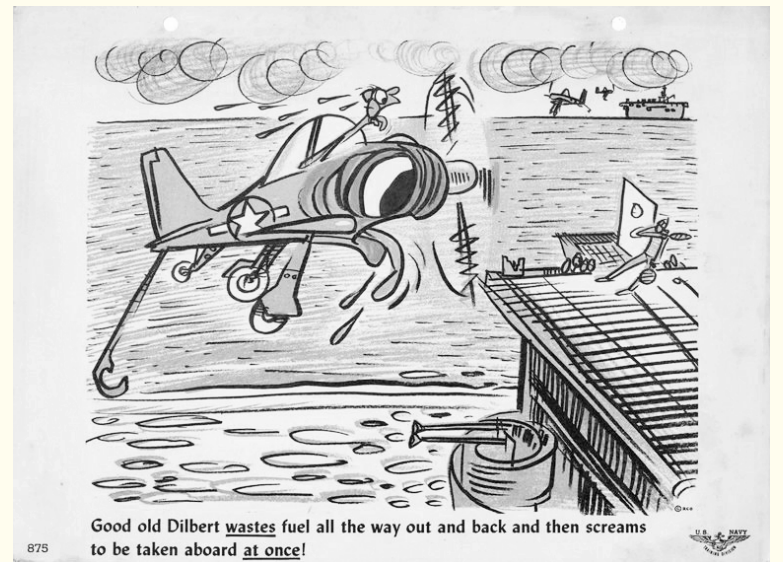
## What do you get when you cross an artist with an aviator?

A comic strip about a hapless Navy pilot named Dilbert Groundloop.

Illustrator Robert Osborn enlisted during World War II hoping to become a pilot. He was instead recruited by Edward Steichen and the Naval Photographic Unit to create speed drawings for the Navy.



These drawings centered around clumsy and careless, Dilbert Groundloop, who showed pilots what not to do through some of the cartoon calamities seen here. Dilbert not only provided laughs but spawned a new nickname among naval pilots. And no one wanted to be known as a "Dilbert!"



## PEOPLE OF PATRIOTS POINT

Thom Ford is no stranger to aircraft carriers. After all, he served on four of them throughout his 30-year Navy officer career. It made his decision in 2016 to begin volunteering at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, an easy one. Since then, he has led education tours, worked as a docent, and served as the Volunteer Coordinator for three years.



**"My favorite part is being able to relate my knowledge and stories to bring the ship alive to people."**

*- Thom Ford*

Currently, Thom continues volunteering while leading Captain's Tours, the museum's expert-led tours of the Yorktown, typically off-limits to the public.

When asked his favorite part of working at Patriots Point, he said, "My favorite part is being able to relate my knowledge and stories to bring the ship alive to people."



# EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Be on the lookout for these exciting new additions to the Patriots Point experience:

## "ASK-ME-ABOUT-HISTORY" CARTS

Experience history firsthand with pop-up lessons and facts about the ships.

## SECOND SATURDAYS

Interact with living history reenactors stationed at various locations around the property.



- THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER -

## FIND US IN THE COMMUNITY

### Halloween at the Y at Oakbrook Family Center October 18, 5 – 7 p.m.

Halloween at the Y is FREE and open to the public. Past events have featured food trucks, hayrides, a haunted house, and, of course--a Trunk or Treat!

### Children’s Day at Waterfront Park October 20, 12 – 5 p.m.

Old and new traditions delight at the 37th Annual Town of Mount Pleasant Children’s Day Festival! Families will enjoy carnival rides, inflatable slides, live entertainment, pony rides, games and many other activities! Admission and all activities are free.

### Harvest Festival at Johns Island County Park November 2, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Come to Johns Island County Park for foot-stompin’ live music from local bluegrass bands, pumpkin decorating, kids crafts, hayrides, and more. Once you’ve eaten your fill of festival food, head on over to the crafter’s market for some great holiday shopping!

## HOUSEKEEPING

### Winter Hours Begin September 9

Weekdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Weekends 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

*Ticket Booth closes every day at 4 p.m.*

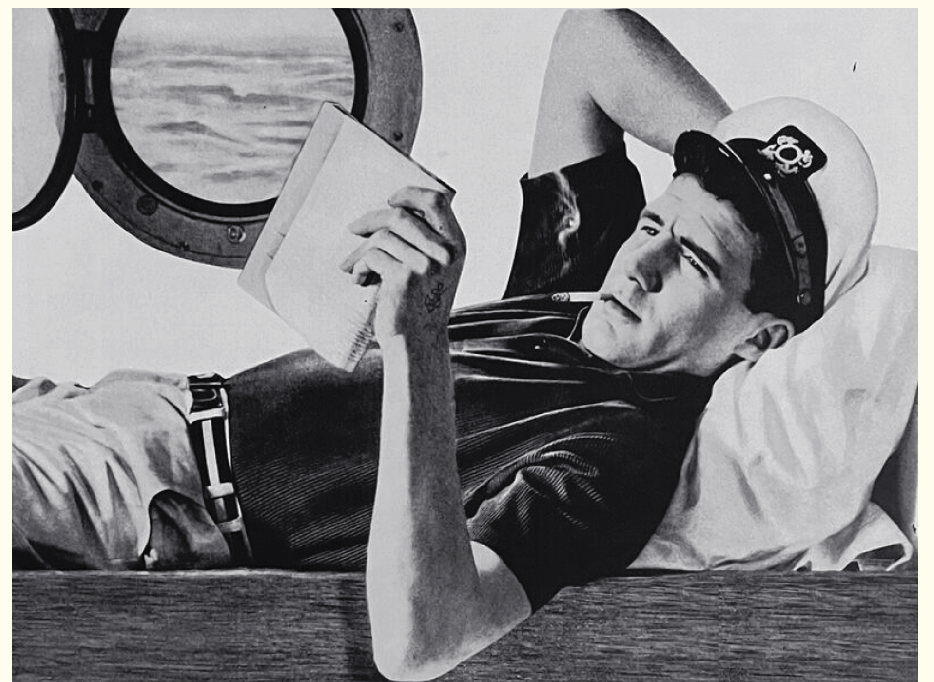
**Museum Closed:** Thanksgiving | November 28



## OPERATION OVERNIGHT

# Sleep Like a Sailor!

That’s just what your group will do during Operation Overnight at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum! See what life was like aboard a World War II aircraft carrier. As newly minted “sailors,” participants will awake from their ship racks to the sound of “Reveille” and take part in interactive, enriching activities and programming designed to inform and inspire. Tales of patriotism come to life while exploring the history of our country’s heroes. Sleeping aboard the USS Yorktown is an authentic experience they won’t forget!



## CAPTAIN’S CHAIR

# Hello, friends!

Welcome to our new Patriots Point community newsletter! We hope this will give our community an opportunity to learn more about all we do at Patriots Point. Our museum is open 362 days a year, and there is always something engaging and amazing happening here.

On October 15, we will host Last One Out- a Conversation on Vietnam and Afghanistan. On October 19, we will be celebrating the spooky season with our annual Halloween on the Yorktown. In honor of Veterans Day on November 9, we will host renowned artist Mary Whyte for a hands-on watercoloring event for veterans. Please check our website for more information and reserve your spot at these free events.

Sincerely,

*Allison Hunt*

Allison Hunt  
Patriots Point, Executive Director

### USS LAFFEY DESTROYER

sailors will be introduced to the story of the legendary USS Laffey and the brave actions of the ship’s crew during the pivotal battle to take the Japanese island of Okinawa.

### B-25B MITCHELL BOMBER

Sailors will get a behind-the-scenes look at the B-25B Mitchell bomber made famous by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and his team of pilots during WWII.

### MEDAL OF HONOR

Participants will be introduced to the incredible acts of bravery and valor shown by its recipients as they explore our brand new Cong. Medal of Honor Museum.

*Click the link to learn more about **Operation Overnight** and book your camping adventure today!*

[LEARN MORE](#)

**QUESTIONS? OUR TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!**  
(843) 881-5937 | OPERATIONOVERNIGHT@PATRIOTSPPOINT.ORG