



Press Release

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Battleship Iowa to be Donated to Pacific Battleship Center

WASHINGTON — The Navy announced today, under the authority of Title 10 United States Code Section 7306, that the historic battleship USS Iowa (BB 61) will be donated to the Pacific Battleship Center, a non-profit organization, for permanent berthing and public display at the Port of Los Angeles, in San Pedro, Calif.

“I am pleased this historical battleship will serve as a tribute to the sailors, who contributed to her storied legacy.” said Ray Mabus, secretary of the Navy. “I am confident that the Iowa will be proudly displayed in the Port of Los Angeles as a symbol of her distinctive place in our Nation’s history.”

The Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 109-163, authorized the secretary of the Navy to strike Iowa from the Naval Vessel Register and offer the ship for donation to an eligible entity which will display the ship within the state of California. Competition for donation of Iowa was between the Pacific Battleship Center and the Historic Ships Memorial at Pacific Square of Vallejo, Calif. Evaluation of the final applications submitted by both organizations on May 31, 2011, determined that the Pacific Battleship Center was the only organization to fully meet the Navy’s minimum requirements for ship donation.

Formal transfer of ownership will occur upon signing of the ship donation transfer contract, which is pending completion of National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act regulatory requirements.

Iowa was the leader of a class of powerful and heavily armed fast battleships, the last of their type constructed for the U.S. Navy. Iowa transported President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic on the first leg of his journey to conference with allied war leaders at Tehran, Iran, in 1943. Iowa served in fast carrier task forces in the Pacific Fleet and conducted shore bombardments during World War II and the Korean War, and participated in U.S. Navy operations to protect Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attacks in 1987 and 1988. Iowa was decommissioned for the final time in 1990.

The Navy donates historic ships to promote public interest in the defense of the nation, commemorate naval history and heritage, and to honor the men and women who built and sailed these ships. Iowa is the last of the four Iowa-class battleships to be donated. New Jersey (BB 62), located in Camden, N.J., was donated in 2000; Missouri (BB 63), located in Honolulu, Hawaii, was donated in 1998, and Wisconsin (BB 64), located in Norfolk, Va., was donated in 2009.