

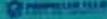
One *of a* Kind

NAUTICUS

Tickets On Sale Now!

 **FRISKY on the WISKY**
Benefiting Sail Nauticus Academy

Saturday, May 11
Visit Sailnauticus.org

Sponsored by 

Story by Katie Begley
Photos by Vicki Cronis-Nohe
and Katie Begley

OFF BASE

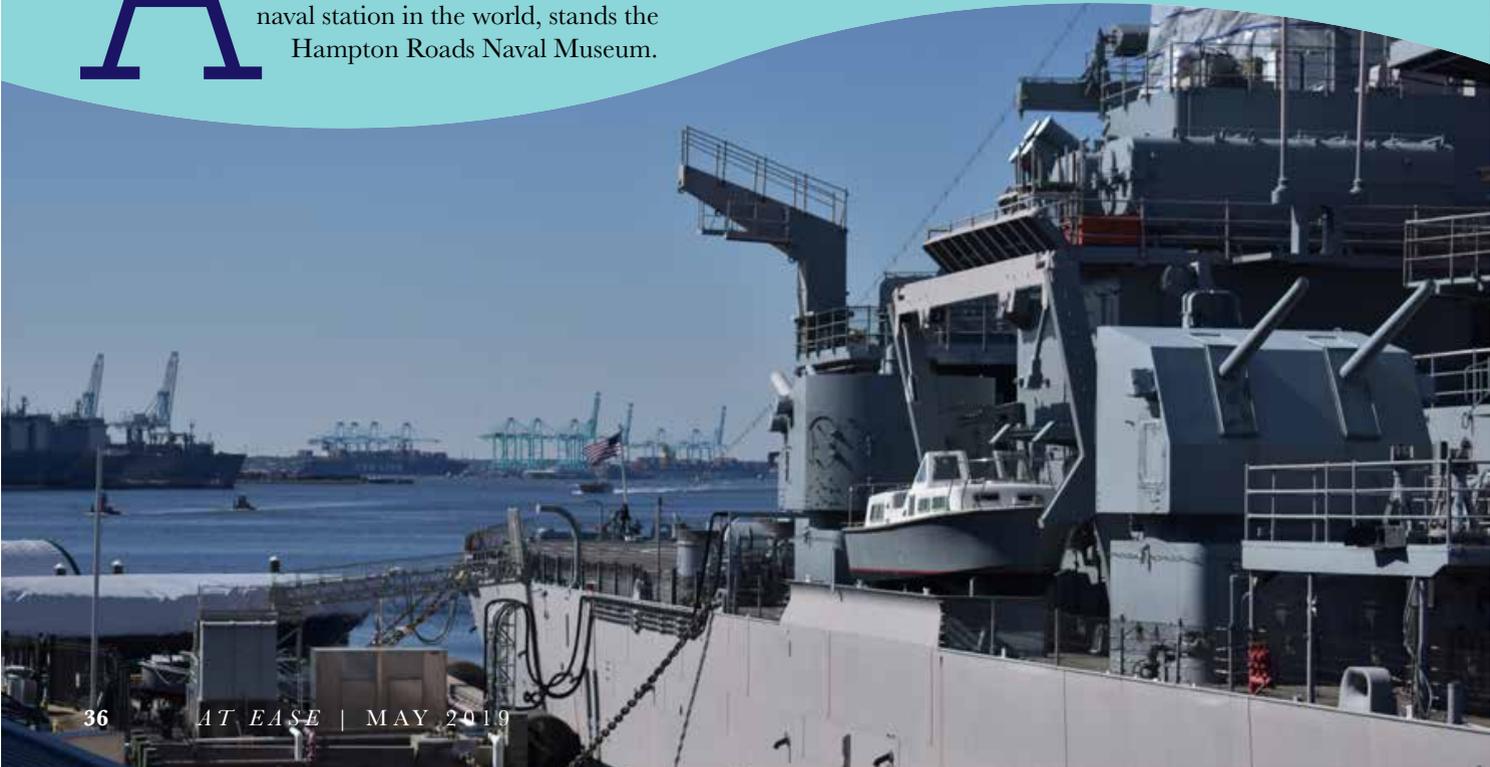
Bringing Naval History to America's Navy





A free museum bringing naval history to the Hampton Roads area, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum houses an impressive collection of artifacts and brings naval heritage to active duty sailors and the public.

Along the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, Virginia, with an impressive view of the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth and near the largest naval station in the world, stands the Hampton Roads Naval Museum.





The museum highlights the naval history in the Hampton Roads area. Norfolk, the home of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, is also the location of the world's largest naval base—Naval Station Norfolk. The museum was originally founded in 1979 in the Pennsylvania House on the naval station and still maintains many of the artifacts displayed around the base as well as in the archives building. But the move to its current location in the mid-1990s marked a major transition for the museum.

Housed alongside the Nauticus Museum, it is the only one of its kind to be co-located with a major metropolitan museum.

History and Heritage

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is funded by the U.S. Navy through the Naval History and Heritage Command. It is one of 10 museums around the country that brings national and regional naval history to life for many civilian, military, and veteran visitors. Over 240 years of Hampton Roads history is on display for all to enjoy, free of charge.





Joseph Miechle, an Army veteran and Museum Educator, provides insight into the history of the artifacts in the museum. Illuminating artifacts from the Confederate raider ship CSS Florida, he tells the story of the supposed accidental sinking of the ship by the Union so they didn't have to return it to the Confederacy. The Museum Educators are able to bring the history of each period and artifact to life.

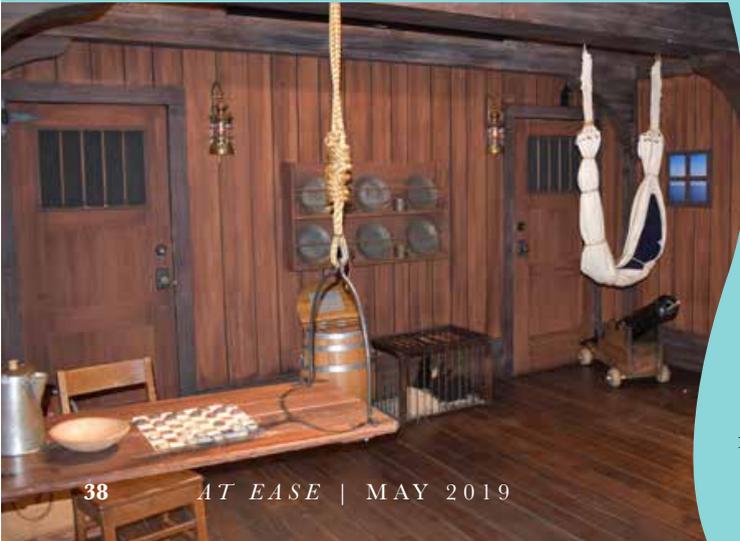
The museum also boasts an impressive collection of model ships. Before the age of computer design and simulation, shipbuilders relied on scale models to help them know what their new ships would look like, what features to include, and how to best construct them. From the intricate rigging to weapons mounts, each detail needed to be perfect. Today, building and maintaining these models keeps the practice alive. Some models, such as the USS Chesapeake, even include wood from the actual ship. Volunteer Lee Martin at the museum shares the art of shipbuilding with current Navy sailors, veterans, and other visitors by maintaining and restoring ship models displayed at the museum.

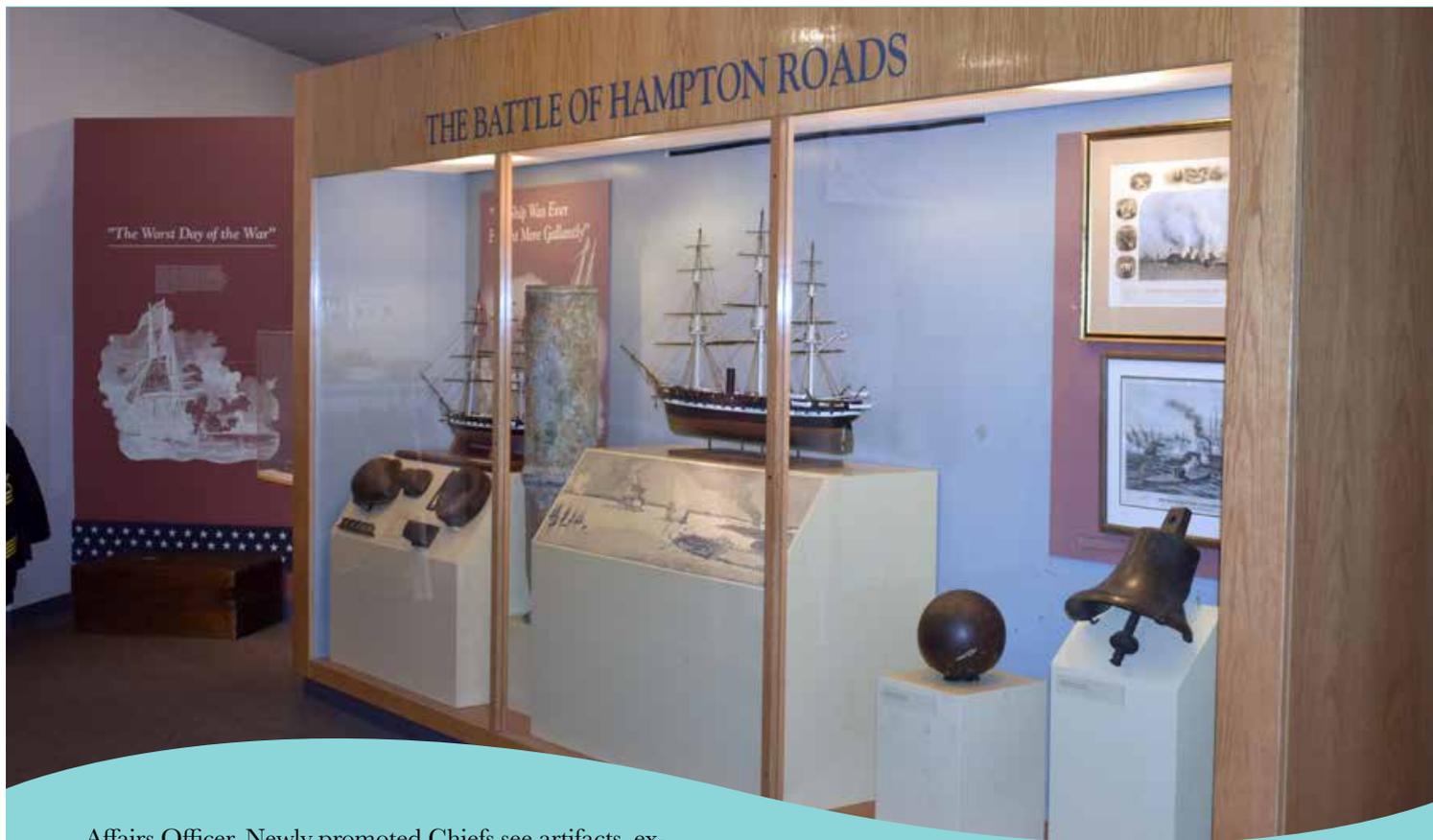
Proud Navy Tradition

The museum also hosts a number of special events and opportunities for service members to connect to the history of the Navy in the area.

Nothing evokes military pride like a traditional Navy ceremony. Reenlistment, Change of Command, Retirement, Open Mess Night, Baptism—all with the appropriate reverence and respect for the thousands of sailors who came before. The Hampton Roads Naval Museum facilitates these and many more ceremonies onboard the adjacent USS Wisconsin, a battleship that has sailed the world since World War II and now serves as an interactive museum. The museum hosted over 700 reenlistment ceremonies in 2018 alone.

Every year, thousands of enlisted sailors are promoted to the coveted rank of Chief Petty Officer. With this promotion comes the responsibility to honor the legacy of those who came before as well as keep naval tradition a central part of the fleet. Chief Petty Officers place a particular emphasis on naval history and heritage, which the museum is ready to support. "During Chief Petty Officer Selection Season in August, we host three days of training aboard the Wisconsin in conjunction with area commands," said Max Lonzanida, the museum Public





Affairs Officer. Newly promoted Chiefs see artifacts, explore the museum's 4,000 volumes in the research library, and learn more about the heritage of the naval service.

Education and Interactive Programs

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum offers a wide variety of education and outreach programs, both at the museum and through area schools. The museum has 15 programs available to elementary and secondary students. Each one can be delivered at the museum as part of a field trip or at the school. Just like museum admission, all education programs are 100% free.

Museum educators are on hand to provide their unique insights to visitors and really bring the naval history of the region to life. The Life at Sea room allows children to imagine they are 18th century sailors, playing checkers and sleeping in hammocks between their duties onboard ship. Many of the artifacts in the museum are delicate, but by using 3D printing technology, kids are able to explore and manipulate replicas.

Online lesson plans and other resources can be found at www.htnmeducation.blogspot.com.

The Future

The museum knows the importance of providing the next generation of architects and engineers with a sense

of history. Every February brings an interactive Lego shipbuilding event to Hampton Roads youth. 5,200 attendees were able to build models of ships, including the USS Maine, USS Gettysburg, and USS Harry S Truman, in 2018. Can't wait for next year's event? The museum provides plans as part of the online "Brick by Brick" education outreach.

With 70-80% of their collection in archives located at Naval Station Norfolk, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum is always working to bring new and exciting exhibits to visitors. This Spring, the museum plans to close part of its gallery to get an all-new Vietnam War exhibit prepared. Set to open in October 2019, The Ten Thousand-Day War at Sea: The U.S. Navy in Vietnam, 1950-1975 will combine artifacts and dioramas with hands-on exploration. Visitors will be able to try on uniforms, see unit patches, and even explore a portion of a Patrol Boat.

Want to know how you can support the Navy's commitment to history and heritage? Start with a visit to the free Hampton Roads Naval Museum. You will be rewarded with an increased appreciation of naval history, witnessing naval tradition, and connecting history with the future of tomorrow's Navy.