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**Commemorating 163 Years: The Mariners' to Honor the Historic Battle of Hampton Roads on
March 8, 2025**

NEWPORT NEWS, Va — The Mariners' Museum and Park welcomes the community to explore the region's rich maritime heritage at the annual [Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration Day](#) on **Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (Eastern time). In partnership with NOAA Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, this event marks the 163rd anniversary of the legendary battle and celebrates a significant milestone: the 50th anniversary of *Monitor's* designation as the nation's first national marine sanctuary.

Each year, the Commemoration Day illuminates a different theme or focus, helping visitors engage with *Monitor's* history in new ways. This year's event highlights maritime careers, emphasizing professions related to *Monitor's* journey. "The Mariners' is thrilled to help families explore the career paths connected with the Battle of Hampton Roads and the USS *Monitor* recovery project," said Mariners' Education Department Director Harriet Smith. "Along with our NOAA partners, we look forward to celebrating the many maritime careers associated with *Monitor's* legacy."

During the event, guests can "choose their own maritime career adventure" while connecting with seasoned maritime professionals and gaining key insights into their career journeys. "Engineering, underwater archaeology, and the Navy are just a few of the highlights guests can consider as they interact with volunteers and staff who specialize in these areas," Mariners' Senior History Educator Brandan Adams said. "We invite the community to enjoy a day of fun, hands-on activities, career exploration, and maritime connections!"

The community can also attend a Wet Lab Open House, where they'll get a clear view of *Monitor's* turret up close; a rare opportunity as the iconic artifact is typically submerged in a solution that limits visibility. The turret's tank is currently drained for the first time since 2019, and the Commemoration Day offers the only chance for the general public to step inside the wet lab to see the turret before it is submerged again.

While engaging in a day full of activities for every age and interest, guests will:

- dive into a curated STEM design challenge to uncover the critical role of *Monitor's* rotating turret;
- explore the galleries and meet the Mariners' Team as they interpret artifacts throughout the Museum;
- take a virtual tour through the most detailed as-built model of USS *Monitor* ever created;
- see 3D-printed replicas of the same tools *Monitor's* crewmembers used in 1862; and
- attend lectures by historians John V. Quarstein and Charles McLandress.

All Commemoration Day activities are included in \$1 admission and are free for Mariners' Museum Members. A food truck will be stationed in front of the Museum, and snacks and water will be available for purchase in the Museum's Gift Shop.

For more information about the Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration, visit <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/bohr>. Media interested in interviews about upcoming events for the Battle of Hampton Roads or USS *Monitor* conservation should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Y. Jones at sjones@MarinersMuseum.org.

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum® is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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