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 From the Admiral...

On Friday Feb 22nd, our ship was honored with a surprise visit by Ms. Gloria Carvalho, Captain Larry Jones, USN., and Ms. Jamie Polekmeyer from the Naval Sea Systems Donations office. This was not a planned visit, but a follow-on to their official tour of USS Olympia that same morning.

I wanted to inform all hands of parting comments related to me. Their collective impressions of Battleship New Jersey, her Curatorial/Historical presentations, her Organization and Procedures - far surpassed their individual expectations. After only one year of restoration, they were truly impressed and felt the ship's appearance was nothing short of "Outstanding."

To these comments I can only add that it is because of the efforts of all of you that Battleship New Jersey is well under way on her new voyage to national prominence once again. Your continuing efforts through these coming months and years will certainly bring many more of these appreciative comments, and as they occur... you will be informed. You can be proud of your efforts. I am, and so is our country. BZ

RADM Tom Seigenthaler, USN (Ret.)
Executive Director

Interesting fact for younger visitors:

There is only ONE ship in the USN that does not have a classification other than her name. Effective September 1, 1975, USS Constitution was listed in the Naval Vessel Register (NVR) as a commissioned United States Navy ship only by her name.

The next three months, from April to June of 2002, have important World War 2 historical significance that you may want to include in your tour presentations.

60 Years Ago - beginning in April of 1942...

- **April of 1942** found USS New Jersey, and USS Wisconsin still on shipways # 3 and # 4 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. USS New Jersey was 8 months away from launching on December 7, 1942, and 13 months away from her 1st commissioning – May 23, 1943.
- **April 18, 1942** - Lt Col. Jimmy Doolittle and sixteen B-25's took off from the carrier USS Hornet to bomb Tokyo - Admiral Halsey in command of the fleet.
- **April 18, 1943** - Exactly one year to the day from the Doolittle raid, Japanese Admiral Yamamoto was killed on an inspection flight over the South Pacific...
- **June 4, 1942** the Battle of Midway took place almost exactly 6 months to the day from the Japanese attack on Dec 7, 1941... This battle was the turning point in the Pacific war.

Vought OS2U Kingfisher Floatplane

There were three (3) **Vought OS2U Kingfisher** floatplanes aboard USS New Jersey at her commissioning on May 23, 1943, and up into the Spring of 1945. These planes were used mainly for reconnaissance and rescue missions, and had an effective range of 800 miles.



After a sortie, the planes would land on the water close to the ship and taxi onto a recovery sled being towed by the ship. The plane would then be hoisted aboard by the stern crane.

(Photo taken aboard USS North Carolina (BB-55) - courtesy of Docent Paul McPike.)

From the Curator: We have an urgent need for a Librarian and Office Assistants. If you would be interested, or know of anyone, please contact the Curator office.

“Three Minute Policy” Because of the large volumes of visitors already coming aboard, we ask that all Docents strictly limit their presentations to **not more than 3 minutes**... this will go a long way toward reducing congestion on deck and in the spaces - Thanks.

Reminder: Please send e-mail addresses to Bruce Haegley - haegley@comcast.net, and bulletin comments or suggestions to Tom Helvig - THelvig@aol.com.