

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Delaware River Waterfront & Independence Seaport Museum Offer
Front-Row Access for the Navy's 250th Birthday Celebration**

Cherry Street Pier, Spruce Street Harbor Park, Independence Seaport Museum to offer prime viewing, ship tours, and events commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States Navy and Marine Corps

PHILADELPHIA (October 1, 2025) – When Philadelphia welcomes the United States Navy to celebrate 250 years since its founding (October 9 - 16), the [Delaware River Waterfront Corporation](#) (“DRWC”) parks – including Spruce Street Harbor Park and Cherry Street Pier – alongside the [Independence Seaport Museum](#) (“ISM”), will become the premier destination to commemorate the 250th Anniversaries of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Welcoming the Parade of Ships on the morning of Thursday, October 9, Spruce Street Harbor Park will offer visitors special viewing access along its Waterfront to watch select ships make their way up the Delaware River. ISM’s *Olympia*, a nineteenth-century cruiser and the oldest steel warship afloat in the world, will fire her Triple six-pounder Gun to welcome them. Together, all ten Navy and Coast Guard vessels will travel along the Delaware River and dock at four berthing locations on both shores: Pier 4 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Penn’s Landing, Gloucester Main Terminal, and the Camden Waterfront.

Following the Parade of Ships, the Innovation Pavilion will take place at Cherry Street Pier from October 9 to 11, to offer a high-technology showcase, supplier conference, and workforce development event filled with energy, innovation, and opportunity. ISM will offer special talks as well as ship tours of the *Olympia*, one of the last surviving warships from World War I. Additionally, the [RiverLink Ferry](#) will operate on its regular daily schedule from October 9 to 16 to provide access to festivities on Philadelphia’s Central Delaware River Waterfront and Camden, where more festivities will take place.

More information about the special highlights on Philadelphia's Central Delaware River Waterfront for the Navy250 Parade of Ships can be **found below**.

**For media seeking access to viewing areas for the Parade of Ships, please contact: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, Lauren Rocco at Lrocco@signature57.com or Independence Seaport Museum at Alexis Furlong, afurlong@phillyseaport.org. For media seeking information on the Navy250 Parade of Ships, please contact Taylor Lumpkin, Taylor@enroutemarketing.com. **

Extended Ferry Service

RiverLink Ferry Transportation from Philadelphia to Camden

Columbus Boulevard & Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

- The ferry will operate daily ferry service October 9th through the 16th to accommodate the historic homecoming celebration for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corp's 250th Anniversaries. Weekday service will operate 9:30AM - 5PM, with weekend service running 9:30AM - 7PM.

Delaware River Waterfront Highlights for Navy250 Parade of Ships:

Navy250 Weekend at Spruce Street Harbor Park, Thursday, October 9 to Sunday October 12, 2025

- **Various Entertainment & Activities at Spruce Street Harbor Park, 4PM to 10PM**
Enjoy activities hosted at Spruce Street Harbor Park all weekend long!
Thursday, October 9: Parade of Ships (morning)
Friday, October 10: “Sailor’s Swing” with Rittenhop from 7PM to 10PM
Saturday, October 11: Family Friendly Build a Boat Activity with PopUpPlay from 1PM to 4PM, and NavyNight at the Movies with Outdoor Screenings of Top Gun 1 and Top Gun 2 from 6PM to 10PM
Sunday, October 12: Family Friendly Create a Giant Sea Creature Activity with PopUpPlay from 1PM to 4PM, and a special performance by Orchestra 2001: Brass Quintet from 3PM to 6PM
- **Independence Seaport Museum’s Olympia Triple 6-Pounder Gun Salute, October 9**
**Access to [Olympia](#) is included with General Admission, free for Museum members
The Independence Seaport Museum will welcome the Parade of Ships with a special salute from the *Olympia*. The ship will fire her Triple 6-pounder Gun to welcome the naval ships that will be docked along the Delaware River in both Philadelphia and Camden.
- **Innovation Pavilion at Cherry Street Pier, Thursday, October 9 to October 11, 2025**
121 N Christopher Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19106
The Navy and Marine Corps' 250th anniversary will be celebrated at the Innovation Pavilion - a three-day high-technology showcase, supplier conference, and workforce development event filled with energy, innovation, and opportunity.
- **Small Business Day | Thursday, October 9, 12 – 4 pm** *Open the public, RSVP Required
Visitors will explore workforce and training opportunities, map out paths of engagement, and learn about small business opportunities within the MIB, hosted by BFA and DVIRC.
- **Supplier Development Day | Friday, October 10, 9 am – 5 pm** *Ticketed event with registration required
Visitors will hear from high-ranking naval officers, industry leaders, and best-selling author David Marquet. They will explore trends and opportunities shaping the future of maritime, defense, and manufacturing sectors.
- **Workforce Development Day | Saturday, October 11, 9 am – 3 pm** *Free and open to the public
Visitors will meet employers, discover training programs, and experience live demonstrations, including Electric Boat, the Build Submarines NASCAR car, and 60-foot submarine display.

- **Homecoming 250 Fireworks over the Delaware, Monday, October 13, 6 pm to 8:20 pm:**
Cap off the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration with concerts on both sides of Delaware River, where the Navy and Marines launched their first ships and missions. The fireworks show will be enhanced by lighted ships, cannon salutes, and music. Viewable from Penn's Landing and the Camden Waterfront. Free and open to the public.

Independence Seaport Museum's Guided Tours & Talks

211 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19106

**All programs are included with General Admission and free for Museum members unless otherwise noted.*

- **The Voyage Home: *Olympia* and the Unknown Soldier from World War**
Friday, October 10, 11 am – 1 pm
Visitors will board *Olympia* to learn about the cruiser's final act of service before being decommissioned: the transportation of the American Unknown Soldier from World War I from Le Havre, France to Washington, D.C.
- **Hard Hat Tours of the *Olympia***
Saturday, October 11 & Saturday, October 18, 9 am – 12 pm
\$125 per person, Museum members receive 20% discount
An exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the *Olympia*, a nineteenth-century cruiser that is the oldest floating steel warship in the world and one of the last surviving warships from World War I.
- **Table Saw Talks**
Sunday, October 12, 10 am
Coffee and an in-depth discussion about the traditions of wooden boat building along the Delaware River.
- **The Founding of the United States Navy: A Curated Tour of *Patriots & Pirates***
Monday, October 13, 11 am & 1 pm
A guided tour of *Patriots & Pirates*, an exhibition that details how the Navy was founded right here in Philadelphia.
- **A Little-Known Conflict That Shaped a Nation: Philippine-American War (1899 – 1902)**
Tuesday, October 14, 11 am & 1 pm
Visitors will be able to attend a talk about the museum's latest temporary exhibition installed aboard the *Olympia*, *Philippine-American War (1899-1902): Complex Symbols & Conflicting Relationships*.

About the Navy250 Parade of Ships

Taking place October 9 to 16, with additional events on November 7 to 11, the Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration will honor our nation's maritime services with a dynamic series of landmark events, proudly hosted by Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps (Homecoming 250®). Designated by the Navy and Marine Corps as the official national commemoration of their 250th anniversaries, the historic celebration serves as the Semiquincentennial's largest tribute to military and Veterans, drawing visitors from across the country to experience Philadelphia's historic role in shaping America's legacy.

About the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation:

Delaware River Waterfront Corporation ("DRWC") is a 501(c)(3) created in January 2009, exclusively for the benefit of the City of Philadelphia and its citizens. The fundamental purpose of DRWC is to design, develop, program, and maintain public amenities such as permanent and seasonal parks, trails, and streetscape improvements to transform the waterfront into a vibrant destination for recreational, cultural, and commercial activities for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia as is consistent with the goals of the Master Plan for the Central Delaware. Daily programming throughout the entire year is changing the way Philadelphians see and converse about the Waterfront and is helping to create spaces and communities that connect residents and visitors to the Waterfront. For more information, please visit: <https://www.delawareriverwaterfront.com>

About Independence Seaport Museum

The Independence Seaport Museum (ISM), founded in 1960 as the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, encourages visitors to discover Philadelphia's river of history and world of connections. Stewards of the *Olympia*, a nineteenth-century cruiser, and the *Becuna*, a World War II-era submarine, ISM is home to interactive and award-winning exhibitions, one of the largest collections of historic maritime artifacts in the world and a boatbuilding workshop. Accredited by the American Association of Museums since the 1970s, it is a premier, year-round destination adjacent to Spruce Street Harbor Park on Penn's Landing. Visit daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and see our full schedule of programs and events at [phillyseaport.org](https://www.phillyseaport.org). Visit <https://www.phillyseaport.org/admissions-hours-of-operation/> to learn about ticket packages and guided tour options.

Media Contacts:

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