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Secretary of the Navy  
Hon. Carlos Del Toro  
1000 Navy Pentagon Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 78<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the United States Navy! Your long service in the Navy will no doubt stand you in good stead as you lead the over 900,000 men and women who serve in today's Navy and Marine Corps, in all roles whether it be active, reserve, or civil personnel.

Today, I write in support of designating Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware River as the main celebration site for the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Navy and Marine Corps in October and November 2025. For the reasons listed below and for so many more the Philadelphia region is the natural choice for the celebration of the services 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is also the natural lead into the Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in July of 2026.

The United States Navy and Marine Corps were both founded in Philadelphia by the Second Continental Congress in 1775. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Port of Wilmington, Delaware played an important role in the design and construction of navy ships and Delaware has sent many sons and daughters to lead in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. There is no more appropriate region to host the semi quincentennial celebration of our Navy and Marine Corps than Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware River.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Meyer', is positioned above the printed name.

Matthew Meyer  
New Castle County Executive