November 19, 2021

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 78th 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 250th 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 250th birthday. It is also the natural lead into the Nation’s 250th 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 19th and 20th 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,

Matthew Meyer
New Castle County Executive