

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2023

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the Navy
Office of the Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,


We greatly appreciate your recent decision to bring the 250th birthday celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps home to Philadelphia. As members of the Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey congressional delegations, we wish to express our continued support for this effort and offer any assistance the Navy may need from our offices in preparing for the celebration.

We were glad to see that a significant coalition of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey communities have come together to propose 250th anniversary ceremonies, parades, aerial demonstrations, reenactments, and exhibits in and around Philadelphia's Independence Hall, as well as events to highlight the effort to recreate Tun Tavern, the historic birthplace of the Marine Corps.


In addition to your continued support, we respectfully request that you authorize at least four Navy vessels to be made available for public tours during the celebration to represent the Navy and Marine Corps. Ideally, these vessels will illustrate the Navy and Marine Corps' development and achievements from the Gulf War period to present day. We were pleased to see that the Navy has agreed to provide several vessels for the celebration, including the Cruiser Olympia, Submarine Becuna, and Battleship New Jersey, to represent the Navy and Marine Corps' efforts during major wars from the Revolution through the Cold War. We believe that additional vessels from the Gulf War era and beyond – such as the Ticonderoga-class cruiser, Wasp-class amphibious assault ship, and Virginia-class attack submarine, like the USS Delaware – will further enrich the celebration and educational experience for our constituents and visitors.

Thank you again for your support in bringing the 250th birthday celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps home to their birthplace: Philadelphia and the Delaware River. We respectfully ask that you continue to support this mission and further authorize the Navy and Marine Corps to provide the necessary ships, aircraft, and personnel to ensure that the semi-quincentennial celebration is representative of the Navy and Marine Corps' critical role in our nation's history. We look forward to hearing from you.


Sincerely,




John Fetterman
United States Senator




Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator




Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator




Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator




Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



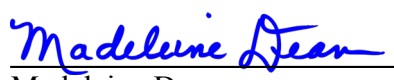
Robert Menendez
United States Senator




Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



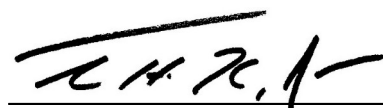
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress