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Special Birthday Issue

**Battleship New Jersey (BB 62)
Commissioned at 12:38 p.m.
on May 23, 1943, and
59 proud years old today...**



”As the morning progressed, the men gave the ship a final sweepdown, and the 2,400 officers and enlisted men who comprised the crew began to gather on the fantail in dress whites...

Present to conduct the formal commissioning was Rear Admiral Milo F. Draemel, Commandant of the Fourth Naval District and the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Admiral Draemel read the commissioning authorization and at 12:38 p.m. directed that the USS *New Jersey* be placed in commission. The American flag, union jack, and commissioning pennant were hoisted, and the first watch was set.

Captain Holden then read his orders and assumed command of the *New Jersey*... Among Holden’s words that day were the following: “This new existence, this new warrior of the deep, yesterday was an “it,” a mere structure of steel, a stout hull powered by mighty engines and studded with cannon. Today this inanimate “it” becomes “she,” a being endowed with the living character of personality, with a soul and with a purpose. A lovely lady, but a lovely lady who will have her angry moments....

”Notwithstanding the high mechanization of this ultra-modern battleship, we will require as the first and most important quality of a member of this ship’s company: that he be a fighting man. A crew of fighting men will make this a fighting ship....

”This is going to be a smart ship. By smart I mean clean, trim, alert, disciplined. That is synonymous with an efficient ship. It is already a powerful ship. It is going to be a fighting ship.”

(Source: *Battleship New Jersey: An illustrated History* by Paul Stillwell)

**Welcome home and
Happy 59th Birthday BB-62!**



FLAG PRECEDENCE

(Source Department of Defense Directive 1005.8 dated Oct 31, 1977)

Recent Quarterdeck discussions have raised the issue of correct flag precedence for display... Here is the accepted order of precedence for displaying flags during both official and unofficial military and civilian ceremonies.

As an audience faces the flags, they are arranged as follows, left to right:

THE UNITED STATES FLAG

FOREIGN COUNTRY FLAGS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

STATE FLAGS (By admission to the union)

SERVICE FLAGS (By order of Service (DOD Dir 1005.8))

ARMY FLAG - 11 July 1771

MARINE FLAG - 10 November 1775

NAVY FLAG - 13 October 1775*

AIR FORCE FLAG - 18 September 1947

COAST GUARD FLAG - 4 August 1790

*Navy officially changed to this date. Prior to that they were a younger service than the Marine Corps.

Note: When the Coast Guard operates as part of the Navy, the Coast Guard flag takes precedence directly after the Navy flag.

Docent “Running Mates” Needed:

One of the major changes made in the procedures in the docent manual involves the use of “running mates” (for civilians, its mentors!). We would like to give the names and phones numbers of two fully trained docents to a new trainee; we would also give the trainee’s name and number to those docents. The role of the running mate would be to give as much, or as little, help to the trainee as needed. The running mate would call the trainee to see if he/she has any questions, to calm any anxieties and possibly to arrange to meet the trainee on the ship at least once. Each trained docent would be given no more than two trainees at a time.

If you are interested in becoming a “running mate” for a new trainee, please sign up on the sheets near the docent ready room or in the Curator’s office. By signing the sheet you are giving us permission to give your name and phone number to a new docent trainee. Thanks!

From the curator:

With the large amounts of valuable ship’s information being passed to all hands in *The Jerseyman*, we are developing a “**Good News**” and a “**Bad News**” story. The “**Good News**” is that we have the best informed and most knowledgeable Docent’s of any naval museum ship in the country – bar none. The “**Bad News**” is that our Docent’s have so much to offer, that the 3 minute rule is very tough to follow.

Please – stick with the 3 minute rule... the crowds will only get larger... Thanks!

Scott Kodger, Curator

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