



FROM THE

QUARTERDECK

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: LOWRIDER CULTURE IN THE US



Image courtesy of Bob Bernal Jr., the Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Pool, and the National Museum of the American Latino.

In partnership with the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History](#), the [US Navy Seabee Museum \(USNSM\)](#) in Port Hueneme, California, is presenting an exhibit titled [Lowrider Culture in the United States/Cultura Lowrider en los Estados Unidos](#), and hosting a special Lowrider Car Show. The exhibit will be on display at the USNSM from January 10 through April 4, 2026. This traveling exhibit highlights the history and cultural impact of lowrider culture in the United States, emphasizing community, imagination, and self-expression. Visitors can view 57 digital prints that showcase the significance of creativity, family, and traditions. To celebrate the exhibit, the museum will host a car show on Saturday, March 28, featuring real lowriders from local and Seabee communities. This event offers visitors a chance to connect with the stories and artistry of lowrider culture. For more information, please visit the [USNSM Facebook](#) page.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NAVY LIBRARY

On March 31, the [Navy Library](#) will celebrate its 226th birthday. The Library was established in 1800 by President John Adams, as he tasked the first Secretary of the Navy, [Benjamin Stoddert](#), with collecting literature in Dutch, Spanish, French, and English regarding the best practices of naval affairs, including naval architecture, weaponry, and navigation. Originally a small collection of approximately 200 volumes, the Navy Library now consists of 114,000 books, 374,000 manuscripts, and 189,000 periodicals, including 5,644 rare books and 11,000 special collection titles. Today, the Library continues to honor the original mission by ensuring that active-duty sailors have access to the information and knowledge needed to face emerging threats and providing resources for policymakers, military leaders, and American and international audiences on the history, heritage, and warfare of the US Navy. To contact the Library, email NHHC-NavyLibrary@us.navy.mil.



NHHC, photo by Monica McCoy

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: JAMESTOWN

Earlier this month, NHHC [Director Samuel J. Cox](#) traveled to Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia, to meet with the Jamestown Rediscovery team, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, local government officials, and representatives of the College of William and Mary to discuss the importance of America's 250th birthday celebrations, the Navy's role in these efforts, and potential future partnerships. During these discussions, the director highlighted shared interests, the benefits of a strong Navy to coastal economies, and opportunities for strengthening naval capabilities, including shipbuilding efforts, supporting Navy families, and fostering innovation. Reflecting on his trip, Director Cox said, "As we approach America's birthday, organizations and communities around the country are working hard to honor our nation's history. Naval History and Heritage Command works hard to highlight the Navy's role in the founding of the country as well as the sacrifices of those who bravely served to protect our freedom over the last 250 years."



Image courtesy Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT PROGRAM

Calling all Navy commands: Don't forget that your [Command Operation Reports](#) (CORs) are due to the [Navy Archives](#) by March 15, April 15, or May 15, depending on your command. CORs are the only permanent records that document the activities and actions of the US Navy. These reports are critical for the Fleet, policymakers, and veterans. Roughly 37 percent of all request for information submissions handled by Navy Archives are requests for specific CORs. Such reports are utilized by Congress, the Pentagon, and the Fleet at large to answer tactical questions. Additionally, CORs are used by the VA and veterans themselves to validate a veteran's claims. Guidance for writing and submitting a COR can be found on NHHC's website under "[For the Fleet.](#)"



**I WANT YOU
TO DO YOUR COR**

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT: BLOOD CHIT

In this month's artifact spotlight, NHHC is highlighting a "[blood chit](#)" from Commander Eddy Ha's flight jacket. Prior to departing on a mission deemed to be at high risk of isolation, service members receive a unique blood chit that includes a prepared message written in local languages that can be used if in need of help. While the exact message may vary, the text asks for aid and promises the individual a reward should they help the US service member reach either American officials or our allies. Currently located in NHHC's Collection Management Facility in Richmond, Virginia, this blood chit includes messages in Turkish, Italian, Finnish, Serbo-Croatian, French, Swedish, German, Greek, Polish, English, Russian, Persian, and Arabic. This blood chit is just one of the 200,000-plus artifacts NHHC's [curator branch](#) oversees as part of the Navy's Central Artifact Collection. For more information, please visit NHHC's [website](#).



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

THE NAVY AND IRELAND'S UNBREAKABLE BOND



NHHC, Catalog: NH 121455

The Navy's ties with Ireland and the Irish people go back to the origins of the US Navy. In fact, the "father" of the Navy, [John Barry](#), was born in Wexford, Ireland. He, along with many other Irish immigrants, bravely served and fought for the US Navy in the [Revolutionary War](#) and [War of 1812](#). Nearly 50 years later, when Ireland faced its darkest days during the potato famine, the Navy loaned two vessels, the USS [Jamestown](#) and USS [Macedonian](#), to deliver over 800 tons of aid. The bond continued in [World War I](#), when the US established [naval bases in Ireland](#) to fight off U-boats and protect American troop convoys on their way to Europe. The deep connection between the Irish people and the US Navy has remained unbreakable for 250 years. Here's to another 250—happy St. Patrick's Day!

BOOK TALK WITH AUTHOR JONATHAN JONES

The [National Museum of the US Navy](#) is excited to host author and historian Dr. Jonathan S. Jones to discuss his recent publication, [Opium Slavery: Civil War Veterans and America's First Opioid Crisis](#). Join us on March 25, from 1230 to 1330, as Dr. Jones examines the stories of ailing [Civil War](#) Navy and Army veterans who became addicted to opium and the social consequences veterans, their families, and communities faced due to medical and government personnel dismissing the epidemic as signs of moral weakness, unmanliness, or mental illness. Understanding the impacts of the post-Civil War opioid crisis on veterans and American society can provide critical lessons for today's policymakers and help people comprehend the role of trauma in addiction and the consequences of stigmatizing the disease. This event is open to Washington Navy Yard personnel, CAC holders, and active-duty and retired military members. For more information, email paul.h.perry4.civ@us.navy.mil.

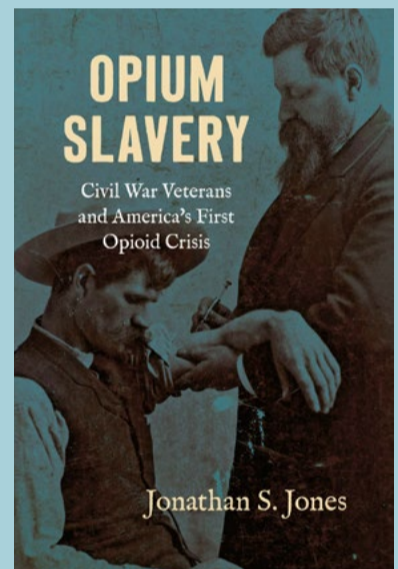


Image courtesy of Jonathan S. Jones

EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

To meet the Navy's requirement for advanced base construction in combat zones during [World War II](#), then-[Rear Admiral Ben Moreell](#), chief of the [Bureau of Yards and Docks](#), requested authorization to activate, organize, and staff naval construction units. As a result, the Naval Construction Force, commonly known as the [Seabees](#), was officially established on March 5, 1942. Since their inception, the Seabees have proudly supported every major American military conflict and contributed to innumerable humanitarian efforts, constructing essential infrastructure. Today, the Seabees continue to play a vital role in supporting the Fleet and implementing the Navy's maritime strategy. NHHC manages the [US Navy Seabee Museum](#), which honors the history of the Seabees and their contributions to the nation. Happy Birthday, Seabees! For more information, please visit the [Seabee Museum website](#).



US Navy, photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John P. Curtis

NAVY TRADITIONS: SEA SHANTIES 101

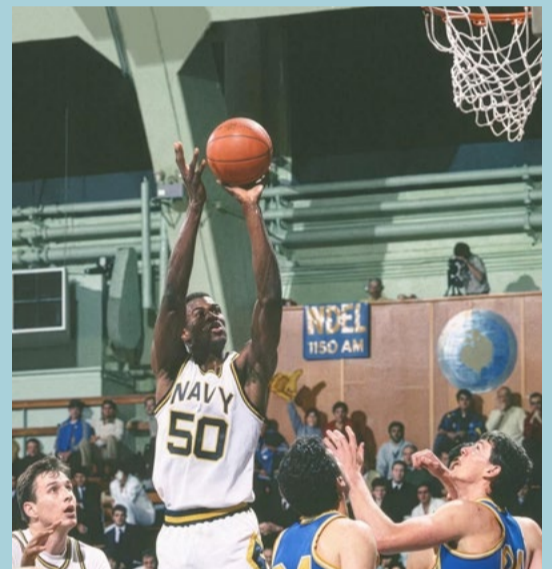


NHHC, photo by Justin Barlow

On February 7, the New Museum Program Division's (NMPD) education specialist, Amy Heath, and exhibits specialist, Tom Potthast, presented a public program called "Sea Shanties 101" in downtown Washington, DC, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The event was part of NMPD's ongoing community engagement initiative to provide educational programming within the metropolitan area to diverse audiences. Off-site programming is a core component of NMPD's mission to build new audiences, promote Navy history, and educate the public through fun and engaging content. Sea shanties were traditional, rhythmic work songs sung by sailors on nineteenth-century merchant sailing vessels to coordinate grueling labor, such as hoisting sails or raising the anchor. Listen to samples of the songs performed [here](#).







THE BIG DANCE

It's March, and you know what that means...time to see who will be crowned NCAA champion! Although the midshipmen are unlikely to make the tournament following their heart breaking loss to Boston University, the Naval Academy has a history of playing Cinderella, with its most notable run ending in the 1986 Elite Eight. Led by David Robison, also known as "the Admiral," Navy started the tournament as a 7-seed and went on to beat 10-seed Tulsa, 2-seed Syracuse, and 14-seed Cleveland State prior to losing to the overall 1-seed, Duke. Robison dominated that season, becoming the player of the year and the first pick in the NBA draft. Even with his NBA future cemented, he fulfilled his active-duty obligation to the Navy as a civil engineer. Today, Robison is considered one of the best basketball players in history. Let the madness begin!



US Navy Athletics

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

-  **Commissioning of USS Massachusetts (SSN-798):** March 28, Conley Marine Terminal, South Boston, Massachusetts
-  **Lowrider Car Show at the US Navy Seabee Museum:** March 28, Port Hueneme, California
-  **Navy Week Lexington:** April 6-12, Lexington, Kentucky
-  **Commissioning of USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG-124):** April 11, Norfolk, Virginia
-  **Fleet Week Houston:** April 15-22, Houston, Texas
-  **Brick by Brick Lego Shipbuilding:** April 18, Virginia Beach Sports Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia