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HOMECOMING 250 NAVY MARINE CORPS ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR EPIC 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE NAVY & MARINE CORPS IN FALL 2025

Photos live [HERE](#).

PHILADELPHIA, PA | April 16, 2025—This fall, the Philadelphia area becomes the only place in the world where visitors can step into history and experience an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps' 250th birthdays. The upcoming [Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration](#), hosted by [Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps](#) (Homecoming 250™), is a must-see event marking the 250th anniversaries of America's maritime services with unforgettable experiences visitors won't find anywhere else. The Navy and Marine Corps have chosen the upcoming celebration to proudly serve as the national commemoration of their 250th anniversaries. The historic event also will be the grand opening of events honoring America's Semiquincentennial. Taking place from October 9 to 16, with special events continuing on November 10, the event stands as the nation's largest tribute to the military and Veterans, drawing tourists from across the country to experience Philadelphia's historic role in shaping the nation's legacy.

"Philadelphia is not only the birthplace of our nation— it's also where the Navy and Marine Corps were born, grew, and served for over 200 years," said Homecoming 250 President George Leone. "As we prepare to celebrate their 250th anniversaries in the very city where it all started, we're proud to honor the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of America's maritime forces. This spectacular celebration will bring together communities, families, and veterans from across the country in a powerful display of unity and gratitude."

Set against the iconic backdrops of Philadelphia, Camden, New Jersey, and the historic Delaware River, the Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration offers an unparalleled experience filled with unforgettable events and opportunities for visitors of all ages. Highlights include immersive museum exhibitions; exclusive ship tours of historic, replica, and active-duty Navy vessels; live performances by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Bands; a can't-miss football face-off between the Naval Academy and Temple University; and an epic Army-Navy Cup soccer showdown. In addition to the full slate of activities, several special events will highlight key moments of the Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration on specific days, including:

Special Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration Events:

Thursday, October 9

- **Parade of Ships:** On Thursday morning, spectators will witness a stunning maritime procession as Navy ships and other vessels make their way on the historic Delaware River, arriving in Philadelphia and Camden for the celebration. Following the ships' arrival, a ceremonial welcome and traditional Blessing of the Fleet including at the Navy Yard and Penn's Landing in Philadelphia will officially kick off the festivities. Watch parties for the parade of ships will take place at various locations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Free and open to the public.
- **WHYY Preview of Ken Burns' *The American Revolution* at Independence Mall:** (615 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) In partnership with WHYY, Homecoming 250 invites the public at 7 p.m. to enjoy a special preview screening of acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns' *The American Revolution* (airing on PBS on November 16 at 8 p.m.). Free and open to the public.

Friday, October 10 to Wednesday, October 15

- **Touring of the Ships:** From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Families can explore an impressive lineup of historic, replica, and active-duty Navy ships, including the cruiser *Olympia*, battleship *New Jersey*, and submarine *Becuna*. Public tours of each ship will be available at their berths in Philadelphia and the Camden area. Free and open to the public
- **Performances at Independence National Historical Park:** The United States Navy Band, U.S. Marine Corps Bands, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon will perform throughout the week at Independence National Historic Park. Free and open to the public.

Friday, October 10

- **Army-Navy Cup at Subaru Park:** (1 Stadium Drive, Chester, PA 19013) The storied soccer rivalry between the Army's West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy returns to Subaru Park, home of the Philadelphia Union, for the 14th annual Army-Navy Cup. Ticket required.

Saturday, October 11

- **Navy-Temple Football Game at Lincoln Financial Field:** (One Lincoln Financial Field Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148) The historic multi-decade football rivalry between the United States Naval Academy and Temple University continues at Lincoln Financial Field. The Owls and Midshipmen have faced off 19 times since the rivalry began in 1988, with Navy leading the all-time series 10 to 9. Ticket required.
- **Navy 250 Gala at the National Constitution Center:** (525 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) At 6 p.m., the public is invited to raise a glass alongside naval leadership in celebration of the Navy's 250th Birthday at the Navy 250 Gala, held at the National Constitution Center—overlooking historic Independence Hall, where the United States Navy was born. Ticket required.

Sunday, October 12:

- **All Veterans Reunion Picnic at Independence Mall:** (615 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Beginning at 11 a.m., a special Sunday picnic for Veterans from all armed services, their families, and the community will be held on Independence Mall. The family-friendly event will offer a full day of fun, featuring live music performances, food competitions, special ceremonies honoring veterans, delicious food, and a variety of additional activities for all ages. The picnic will also

feature various Veteran service organizations providing support, resources, and information to honor and assist those who have served. Free and open to the public.

- **“Victory at Sea” Concert at Independence Mall:** (615 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Following the picnic, attendees are invited to stay for a star-studded patriotic concert on Independence Mall starting at 6 p.m. The “Victory at Sea” Concert will feature performances from the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, including The United States Navy Band. The concert will be followed by an aerial sound and light show. Free and open to the public.

Monday, October 13:

- **Memorial Service for Navy and Marine Corps at Christ Church:** (20 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106) At 10 a.m., the public is invited to honor and remember those who gave their lives in the line of duty at Philadelphia’s historic Christ Church, located near the site where the first Navy ship was commissioned. Free and open to the public.
- **Salute to Youth Parade:** (JFK Blvd & 20th St to 520 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Beginning at 11 a.m., the public is invited to enjoy the Salute to Youth Parade. The two-hour celebration honors young people on the patch to military service, including Naval Academy midshipmen and students from ROTC, NROTC, and JROTC programs. The parade will step off at JFK Boulevard and 20th Street and conclude at Independence Mall. Free and open to the public.
- **Navy 250th Commemoration at Independence Hall:** (520 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) At 2 p.m. the public is invited to attend the Navy 250th Commemoration at Independence Hall, an event honoring the 250th anniversary of the Navy’s founding. The special event will feature remarks from public officials. Free and open to the public.
- **Flyover by the Blue Angels at Independence Hall:** (520 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Attendees of the Navy 250th Commemoration at Independence Hall will witness a thrilling flyover by the Blue Angels, including an area-wide flyover, in honor of the Navy’s 250th Anniversary. Free and open to the public.

Monday, November 10:

- **Marine Corps Commemoration at Independence Hall:** (520 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106) At 10:30 a.m.*, the public is invited to return to Independence Hall for a special commemoration honoring the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps’ founding, featuring remarks by military and public officials. Free and open to the public. *Time subject to change.
- **Toast the Recreation of the Tun:** Starting at 12:30, families are invited to celebrate the 250th birthday of the Marine Corps at The Tun—a historic tavern and birthplace of the Corps—now being faithfully recreated near its original site. Visitors can view the progress of its reconstruction on 2nd Street between Market and Chestnut Streets. Free and open to the public.
- **100th Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Bellevue Hotel:** (200 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19102) At 6 p.m., the public is invited to celebrate 250 years of the United States Marine Corps at the birthplace of one of its most cherished traditions—the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. This year marks the 100th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, an event held in the very same ballroom where Commandant Lejeune hosted the inaugural celebration a century ago. Tickets required.

To further enrich their experience, visitors are encouraged to explore special museum exhibits in Philadelphia and Camden during the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Celebration. The exhibits highlight the proud history, enduring legacy, and vital contributions of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. From rare ship models to inspiring naval stories, each exhibit offers a unique opportunity to dive deeper into America's maritime heritage—and to discover even more of what the region has to offer during the historic celebration.

Naval & Marine Corps Museum Exhibitions:

Independence Seaport Museum: Ongoing

- **[Small but Mighty!: Models, Toys and Miniature Ships](#)**: (211 S Christopher Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Featuring nearly 50 rarely seen models, the exhibit explores the history and evolution of the U.S. Navy through a range of ship models—from historic Navy vessels and Pond Yacht models to toy models that would have been sailed on the floor of large Victorian homes in the 19th century.
- **[Patriots & Pirates](#): Ongoing** (211 S Christopher Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19106) Discover Philadelphia's role in the founding of the United States Navy at the *Pirates & Patriots* exhibit. Learn how the Navy was born out of debate right here in the city, and why Philadelphia's shipbuilders were key to its creation. Explore artifacts and stories that bring this pivotal moment in history to life.

Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial: Ongoing

- **[Shipbuilding of the Delaware River](#)**: (62 Battleship Place, Camden, NJ 08103) The exhibit highlights the rich history of ship construction and repair along the Delaware River. The exhibit showcases artifacts and tools from historic shipyards, including items recovered during the Battleship New Jersey's 2024 drydocking, offering a closer look at the craftsmanship and innovation that shaped America's maritime legacy.

Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum: Now through November 14

- **[Commodore James Biddle](#)**: (1237 State Road, Andalusia, PA 19020) Explore the remarkable naval career of Commodore James Biddle, who helped shape the early U.S. Navy. Biddle oversaw Philadelphia's U.S. Naval Asylum, the Navy's early officer training site before the Academy moved to Annapolis.

American Swedish Historical Museum: June 26 to January 4, 2026

- **[And Let Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Navy Shipbuilding in Philadelphia](#)**: (1900 Pattison Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19145) Greater Philadelphia has long been a hub for U.S. Navy shipbuilding—from the Revolutionary War to the Cold War. The exhibit, curated by the National Museum of the United States Navy, highlights the region's historic contributions, the ships built in the region, and the people behind them.

American Helicopter Museum: August 1 to November 9

- **[Over the Horizon](#)**: (1220 American Blvd, West Chester, PA 19380) The exhibit from the American Helicopter Museum showcases the evolution of naval helicopters through aircraft, models, photos, and video—highlighting roles from anti-submarine warfare to beach landings.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania: October 8 to December 12

To Provide a Naval Armament: United States Navy and Marine History, 1775 – 1958: (1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107) The exhibit, presented in partnership with Homecoming 250, draws on the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collections to explore Navy and Marine Corps history from the Revolution through the Cold War—anchored in the people and stories of Philadelphia. To stay updated on the latest Navy & Marine Corps 250th Celebration activities and events, visit Homecoming 250's website [here](#).

***The schedule of events, key speakers, and participants' information reflect current information, but are tentative and/or subject to change.**

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About Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps

Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps in their birthplace – Philadelphia and the Delaware River – as a grand opening event of the Semiquincentennial of the United States. For the Navy 250th, Homecoming 250 plans to assemble for touring ships from both historical and current. For the Marine Corps 250th, Homecoming 250 plans to host the 100th Marine Corps Ball, where the 1st Ball was held, and celebrate at the site of Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marines. Homecoming 250 is bringing these celebrations to Philadelphia, Camden, and the Delaware River to support our military, salute our Veterans, and educate the public about the role of the Navy and Marines to defend America and freedom. www.homecoming250.org.