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October 21, 2025

The Honorable John C. Phelan  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 230350

Dear Secretary Phelan:

On behalf of York County, Virginia, I extend my warmest congratulations on your appointment as the 79th Secretary of the Navy. We wish you continued success as you guide the Navy into a new era of excellence and innovation.

As York County looks ahead to the upcoming Semiquincentennial in October 2031, marking 250 years since the decisive victory at Yorktown and the birth of our great nation, I respectfully request that the United States Navy consider commissioning a new USS Yorktown in commemoration of this historic milestone. The County seeks support from the General Assembly and from our local delegation in a request to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Navy that the Navy name an active United States naval warship or submarine the U.S.S. Yorktown.

The name USS Yorktown holds deep historical significance, representing courage, sacrifice, and triumph. Several ships have proudly borne this name, each contributing to pivotal moments in American naval history. Among them, the USS Yorktown (CV 5), commissioned in 1937, played a vital role in the early stages of World War II and fought valiantly at the Battle of Midway before its loss in 1942. Its successor, the USS Yorktown (CV 10), an Essex-class aircraft carrier commissioned in 1943, continued that proud legacy through Pacific campaigns and later served as a museum ship at Patriots Point in South Carolina. Earlier vessels, including the USS Yorktown (1839), USS Yorktown (PG 1), and USS Yorktown (CG 48), each reflected the Navy's enduring commitment to strength, innovation, and valor.

The Semiquincentennial of the last major battle of the Revolutionary War offers a singular opportunity to honor our maritime heritage and the generations of Sailors who have safeguarded our freedoms. Commissioning a new USS Yorktown would stand as a fitting tribute to the Navy's proud tradition of service and symbolize America's continued resolve to defend liberty at sea.

224 Ballard Street • P.O. Box 532 • Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 • (757) 890-3320  
Fax: (757) 890-4002 • TDD (757) 890-3621 • Email: [bos@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:bos@yorkcounty.gov)  
*A Hampton Roads Community*

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Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request as part of our nation's celebration of 250 years of independence.

Sincerely,



Sheila S. Noll, Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Tim Kaine, United States Senator  
The Honorable Mark R. Warner, United States Senator  
The Honorable Robert Wittman, United States Congressman  
The Honorable Danny Diggs, Virginia State Senator  
The Honorable W. Chad Green, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable A. C. Cordoza, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War  
Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator  
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