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Mark L. Bellamy, Jr.



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November 12, 2025

The Honorable John Phelan  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

**SUBJECT:** Consideration in Naming a Future U.S. Navy Warship U.S.S. *Yorktown*

Dear Secretary Phelan:

On behalf of York County, Virginia, a region steeped in American history, we write with a profound and heartfelt request: that the Department of the Navy consider bestowing the honored name U.S.S. *Yorktown* upon a future vessel of the United States Navy.

The name *Yorktown* resonates with a significance that is foundational to the very existence of our nation. It was on the shores of Virginia's York River that the decisive victory of the American Revolutionary War was secured in 1781. The Siege of Yorktown was a masterful display of joint operations, where General George Washington's Continental Army, supported by our French allies, cornered the British forces. Critically, it was the strategic naval blockade by the French fleet at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay that sealed the British fate, preventing their escape or reinforcement. This naval action was the lynchpin of the entire campaign, making the name *Yorktown* synonymous not only with American independence but also with the pivotal role of sea power in securing it.

The legacy of U.S.S. *Yorktown* carried forward with immense distinction and valor throughout Naval history. The name has graced five warships, most notably the aircraft carriers of World War II that forged a legend of resilience and sacrifice.

The first, U.S.S. *Yorktown* (CV-5), earned the moniker "The Fighting Lady" for her heroic service in the uncertain early days of the war. She was instrumental in the Battle of Coral Sea, where she was so heavily damaged the enemy reported her sunk. Yet, through sheer will and ingenuity of her crew and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, she was made battle-ready in a mere three days. This incredible recovery allowed her to return to sea and play a crucial role in turning the tide of the war in the Pacific Battle of Midway, before being tragically lost.

The Honorable John Phelan  
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November 12, 2025  
Page 2

Her spirit proved unbreakable. A new Essex-class carrier was immediately given her name, and U.S.S. *Yorktown* (CV-10) carried the legacy forward with unmatched tenacity. The "new" *Yorktown* earned 11 battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation for her service, participating in nearly every major Pacific campaign from 1943 to the end of the war. She stands as a powerful symbol of American resolve—the ability to absorb a blow, rebuild, and return to the fight stronger than before.

To name a modern warship U.S.S. *Yorktown* would do more than honor a place or a past vessel. It would christen a ship with the spirit of our nation's birth, the legacy of sacrifice against tyranny, and the enduring promise of American resilience. It would serve as a powerful inspiration for every Sailor who walks her decks, connecting them to a proud lineage that stretches from the shores of Virginia to the depths of the Pacific.

We believe the name USS *Yorktown* is a treasure of American and naval heritage and respectfully ask you to continue that honorable legacy with another warship of the same name. What better time to honor the place where our nation began than during the celebration of our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026! Your consideration and response to this letter would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sheila S. Noll  
Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors



Douglas R. Holroyd  
Vice Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator  
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