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**NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, City of Newport News and The Mariners' Museum to dedicate three *Monitor* Trail signs**

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, along with the City of Newport News and The Mariners' Museum will dedicate three *Monitor* Trail signs that honor the Civil War's Battle of Hampton Roads that took place in 1862 off the shores of Newport News, Virginia.

Two of the signs give visitors to *Monitor-Merrimac* Overlook Park details of the battles that occurred near there on March 8 and March 9, 1862. The third sign provides an overview of Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and its role in protecting and conserving the USS *Monitor*.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony on March 8, at 11:00 a.m., at *Monitor-Merrimac* Overlook Park. The park is located between 1500-1546 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Newport News, Virginia. Officials from the City of Newport News, NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, and The Mariners' Museum will speak at the dedication ceremony.

From Brooklyn, New York, to Beaufort, North Carolina, a series of *Monitor* Trail wayside signs are being installed to tell the story of the Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* from conception to construction; from battle to sinking; and from discovery in 1973 to present day. Currently, four trail signs have been installed.

Managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1975 to protect the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor*, which sank during a storm 16 miles off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1862.

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