

# CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS



McKINLEY L. PRICE, DDS  
MAYOR

January 29, 2016

Mr. David Alberg  
Superintendent  
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, Virginia 23606

Dear Mr. Alberg,

As Mayor of the City of Newport News, it is my pleasure to express my strong support for the proposed expansion of NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. The USS Monitor brought international renown to Hampton Roads and the City of Newport News over 150 years ago. Today NOAA has continued to put the City in the world's spotlight, with a 25 year track record, with their commitment to the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum, the City's largest tourist attraction. NOAA's presence in the community and the resources they bring, including the Monitor artifact collection and the world famous rotating gun turret, have fostered civic pride and bolstered economic development in our community. I cannot overstate the very positive impact NOAA's Sanctuary Program has brought to our City through our long-standing partnership.

Newport News has had a strong connection with the maritime world from its earliest days. From colonial times up to the modern era, the men, women, and industries of Newport News have had strong links to the sea. We are proud to be home to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry-Dock Company, which built hundreds of merchant and naval vessels that saw action in World War I and II. Many of these vessels and the men who served on them now rest on the seafloor off North Carolina and Virginia, victims of U-boat attacks during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Expanding the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary's boundaries will not only protect these shipwrecks as living memorials to the thousands of Sailors, Merchant Mariners and Shipbuilders who gave their all to defend our nation during the Second World War, but it will also honor the legacy of all men and women who have sailed from our waters to defend freedom around the world. Regardless of the final form the expansion of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary takes, the City of Newport News applauds NOAA's efforts to honor and celebrate our nation's history. I am proud to support this proposal and look forward to our continued partnership with NOAA and the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Price", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

McKinley L. Price, DDS  
Mayor