

February 22, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Alberg,

As a member of The Mariners' Museum and Park's Board of Trustees, I became very excited when I learned about the possible expansion of the USS *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary. I am so proud of our partnership with NOAA, which enables the conservation and interpretation of the USS *Monitor* here at The Mariners' Museum. Indeed, the USS *Monitor* is truly the iconic symbol of the maritime heritage presented by The Mariners' Museum, America's National Maritime Museum.

I believe that this sanctuary's expansion is long overdue. The 'Graveyard of the Atlantic' is filled with harrowing tales of disasters at sea off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. It is imperative that these wrecks be protected.

I have great faith that the work NOAA is doing to expand the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will help preserve and present the stories of these sites for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Keith VanderVennet
Board of Trustees