

March 3, 2016

Mr. David Alberg
Sanctuary Superintendent;
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23602

Dear Mr. Alberg,

This letter is to express our support for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Expansion Project. This expansion project as well as the entire Monitor National Marine Sanctuary has great significance to our family. Jan's distant relative was Jacob Nicklis who went down on the U.S.S. Monitor in 1862. Two sailors from the U.S.S. Monitor were laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on March 8, 2013, 150 years after the vessel sinking during the Civil War. We had the great honor of attending this funeral.

We feel expanding the area for the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary will help protect the ruins of these sunken vessels as well as help keep these waters shielded, for they are a sacred burial ground. There are many sunken vessels within these sanctuary waters from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, as well as World War I and World War II. We would like to see these waters protected and cared for by making these areas undamaged marine sanctuaries.

We support Model C as the best solution for expanding the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. This model will provide the best coverage, include sacred waters and would allow for the designation of an 'archaeological research study area' that would protect additional wreck sites as they are discovered.

Thank you for allowing us to provide support for this important project. If you have any questions about our support, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan Pepper Jim Pepper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan and Jim Pepper and Family
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