

18-059407



THE MacARTHUR MEMORIAL

MacArthur Square

Norfolk, VA 23510

19 January 2018

Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet - Acting NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Rear Admiral Gallaudet,

As Director of the MacArthur Memorial, a museum and research center dedicated to the life and times of General Douglas MacArthur, I would like to express my strong support for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) potential expansion of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (NMMS) to protect the shipwreck gravesites of hundreds of American Servicemen and Merchant Seaman lost during the Second World War off the North Carolina Coast. The broader focus and mission opens up exciting possibilities for our institution, and we look forward to working with our NMMS/NOAA colleagues to tell the stories of World War II's Battle of the Atlantic along the mid-Atlantic coast.

At the Memorial we cover World War II as part of our storyline. Many people assume the fighting in that conflict occurred far from American shores, but in reality the Atlantic coast off North Carolina hosted a relentless battle that lasted many years and reverberated across continents. The World War II shipwrecks off North Carolina collectively comprise a highly significant battlefield deserving of protection and interpretation.

Personally, I am very pleased support this effort. My grandmother's half-brother served in the British Merchant Navy and died 7 March 1943 when SS *Empire Impala* was sunk by a German U-Boat south of Greenland. The fighting in the Atlantic, and its victims on both sides, are often forgotten; NOAA's work, and this proposed expansion, will help keep their memories alive for generations to come.

As NOAA continues its work considering expansion at the NMMS I strongly encourage you to support this effort on behalf of my institution and the members of the greatest generation that fought for our nation's freedom.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, I can be reached at 757-441-2965 or by email at Christopher.Kolakowski@norfolk.gov. Best wishes for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Kolakowski
Director

