

**Media Advisory  
For Immediate Release**



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## **Celebrate Independence Day with Fellow Patriots**

*And Receive a Free American Flag at the National Naval Aviation Museum*

**Pensacola, Fla.**—June 27, 2008—Join military heroes and fellow patriots as they celebrate our nation’s independence and honor those who fight for our freedom at the National Naval Aviation Museum, one of the world’s largest aviation museums. The Museum will host an Independence Day celebration from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on July 4. The first 1,000 Museum visitors will receive an 8-by-12-inch American Flag to wave in honor of this special day of remembrance.

Patrons can also marvel at the vast collections of American flags the Museum has acquired from various world events, many of them the 48-star versions that existed during World War II prior to the statehood of both Hawaii and Alaska. Many of the flags flew over aircraft carriers in time of war. They include:

- A flag flown over the USS *Oriskany* during the Vietnam War.
- A military jumpsuit marked like a flag that Bob Hope wore during a USO show in Vietnam in 1967.
- The flag that flew over the carrier Bunker Hill on May 11, 1945 when she was hit by kamikazes off Okinawa.
- Two flags that flew over the famed carrier *Enterprise*, the most decorated ship of World War II.
- The last flag flown from USS *Los Angeles*, the Navy's last operational rigid dirigible.
- Miniature flags that have gone into space on board Space Shuttles, including one presented to Admiral Arthur W. Radford by famed explorer Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd.

Significant events in Naval history that occurred on July 4<sup>th</sup> include:

- 1777—John Paul Jones hoists first Stars and Stripes flag on Ranger at Portsmouth, N.H.
- 1801—First Presidential Review of U.S. Marine Band and Marines at the White House.
- 1831—U.S. concludes indemnity treaty with France.
- 1842—First test of electrically operated underwater torpedo sinks gunboat, Boxer.
- 1863—Confederates surrender Vicksburg, Miss. and give Union control of Mississippi River.

Other fun Naval history facts:

- The U.S. owned two aircraft carriers named USS *Independence* and USS *America*.
- On the bicentennial in 1976, select Naval aircraft across the globe sported special red, white and blue color schemes.

In addition to a variety of Museum exhibits, visitors can take advantage of FREE Museum and Flight Line tours available throughout the day to get an insider’s view from retired military volunteer guides. Or check out an IMAX® film with four movies playing throughout the day including “Deep Sea” narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, “Dolphins,” “The Magic of Flight” and “Fighter Pilot.” Visitors are also invited to play the new LOST History Hunt game. Taking off of the popular television series “LOST,” players will discover behind-the-scenes history ranging from military survival techniques to bizarre mysteries.

Come celebrate the holiday at the Museum and remember those who continue to protect our freedom!

For a complete list of upcoming events at the Museum, visit [www.navalaviationmuseum.org](http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org) or call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (850) 453-2389 or (800) 327-5002.

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**Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or [sragsdale@navalaviationmuseum.org](mailto:sragsdale@navalaviationmuseum.org). For high-resolution images, contact Ashley Chisholm, E.W. Bullock Associates, at (850) 438-4015 or email [Ashley@ewbullock.com](mailto:Ashley@ewbullock.com).**

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**About the National Museum of Naval Aviation**

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world's largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida's most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience is a thrilling Top Gun flight simulator, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval aviation. Museum admission is free. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open everyday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, visit [NavalAviationMuseum.org](http://NavalAviationMuseum.org).

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