

National Museum of the Pacific War
Admiral Nimitz Foundation
Fredericksburg, Texas

Contact: Dolores E. Young
Director of Marketing and P.R.
Office (830) 992-2785
Cell (830) 456-6997
Young@Nimitz-Museum.org
www.Nimitz-Museum.org

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**The National Museum of the Pacific War Selected to Host Premier of the
History Channel Series: HERO SHIPS**

True accounts of bravery, sacrifice and glory told by the men who were on the front lines, and on deck...

Fredericksburg, Texas (January 21, 2007) - The National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas has been selected to be the host site to premiere the History Channel series: HERO SHIPS. Each Saturday in February, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. the Museum will present a different film in this important History Channel series. The first in the series will be **THE ENTERPRISE CV-6** on February 2, 2008. The second in the series will be **USS LAFFEY** and **LST's** on February 9, 2008. The third in the series will be **USS TEXAS** on February 16, 2008. The last premier in this series will be the **USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS** on February 23, 2008. It is expected that military veterans and dignitaries from each of the ships' associations will be in attendance.

With high definition footage and gripping interviews, HERO SHIPS is a journey through time, exploring some of America's most celebrated naval icons. **HERO SHIPS: USS ENTERPRISE** – The original Enterprise, CV-6, gained immortality as “The Fighting Lady” of World War II. But despite her glorious history, she was sent to the scrap yard, only to be redeemed in the 1957 launch of CVN-65, the world's first nuclear-powered carrier. Today the USS Enterprise remains on the high seas and in the front lines of America's military engagements. **HERO SHIPS: USS LAFFEY** – The USS Laffey was two great vessels with the same name—the first, DD-459, fought to the death in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal on Friday the 13th, November, 1942. The second, DD-724 was at the center of WWII's most intensely brutal kamikaze attack, where it earned the nickname “The Ship that Would Not Die.” However, the crew casualties were high: over 30 perished and another 70 were wounded.

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HERO SHIPS: LST's – “Landing Ship Tanks” weren't deemed noble enough even to have names. They were not thought of as warships even though they were always the first floating metal to touch fire-swept beaches from North Africa, to Sicily, to Normandy, and from the Philippines to Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The story of these ships is therefore one of an unsung hero, as it reveals not just the considerable war-long battle action of one ship, but exemplifies the collective saga of a design class that had absolutely no military precedent before the first keel was laid in June of 1942. **HERO SHIPS: USS TEXAS** – A technical and historical thumbnail of the US Navy from 1912 through 1945, the USS Texas fought in some of the most horrendous naval battles during the 20th century, including D-Day Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. **HERO SHIPS: USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS**– The first Samuel B. Roberts, DE-413, perished heroically in the greatest naval battle ever fought. In October 1944, as part of minimal force protecting jeep carriers in Leyte Gulf, the vessel faces a tremendously superior Japanese fleet. Fighting to the death, the DE-413 is able to fend off much of the Japanese force before sinking to the bottom of the ocean.

HERO SHIPS is produced by Lou Reda Productions for The History Channel. Executive Producer for The History Channel is Mike Stiller. Charlie Maday, who is scheduled to attend the February 23, 2008 USS Samuel B. Roberts premier, is Senior Vice President of Military and Public Affairs for the History Channel.

“We inspire our youth by honoring our heroes.” - The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, is located in Fredericksburg, Texas, and is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Located on a six-acre site, the facility includes the George H.W. Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of the Presidents, the Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone and the Center for Pacific War Studies.

Originally named the Admiral Nimitz Museum and housed solely in the historic Nimitz Hotel, the Museum has grown into a dynamic, first-class experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all backgrounds, a great family educational experience. In addition to nearly 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, the Museum boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. An additional 40,000 square-foot expansion is planned to be completed in late 2009. Visit us at WWW.Nimitz-Museum.org

