

Because so many are interested...

The USS John F. Kennedy Project could not be where we are today without the years put into trying to acquire the USS Saratoga, and the dedicated men and women who helped try to make that happen. For that reason, we hosted a farewell ceremony at the ship on August 8, and we are sending this notice to all our contacts to inform any interested party of the final departure of the USS Saratoga from Naval Station Newport to the scrapping company in Brownsville, TX.

What follows is the verbatim press release issued by Naval Station Newport:

NEWPORT, R.I. – The decommissioned aircraft carrier ex-USS Saratoga (CV 60) is scheduled to be towed from Naval Station Newport's Pier One next Wednesday, August 20 to ESCO Marine's ship dismantling facility in Brownsville, TX for complete dismantling and recycling.

The ex-Saratoga is scheduled to be moved away from Pier One at approximately 8:30 a.m. and is expected to pass under the Newport Bridge around 10:30 a.m.; pass Ft. Adams around 10:45 a.m. and pass Beavertail State Park at approximately 11:30. THESE ARE ONLY ESTIMATES BASED ON OPTIMAL CONDITIONS; NO EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS AND OPTIMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The ex-USS Saratoga was one of four Forrestal-class supercarriers built for the United States Navy in the 1950s. Commissioned in 1956, she spent most of her career in the Mediterranean, but also participated during the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm. Saratoga was decommissioned in 1994. The Navy made the ship available for donation to an eligible organization for use as a museum or memorial in 1998, but no viable applications were received and the ship was removed from donation hold in 2010.

Interested persons will be able to keep track of the carrier's progress from Newport on the live ship map at: www.marinetraffic.com. Towing the Saratoga will be the tugboat "Signet War Horse III." Naval Station Newport will NOT be open to individuals without routine base access the day of the movement. Due to safety considerations, no one will be allowed on the pier unless they are directly engaged with the operation.

For more information about ex-Saratoga, contact the Naval Sea Systems Command Office of Corporate Communication at (202) 781-3350. For information on Naval Station Newport, call (401) 841-3538.

PLEASE REMEMBER: The vision we had for the USS Saratoga carries on with the USS John F. Kennedy project, and her memory will live on, as a substantial portion of the hangar bay will be dedicated to displaying Saratoga memorabilia and artifacts.

CONSIDER DONATING OR BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY.