



Port of Benton

USS Triton Operation
Sandblast Recognition
Ceremony

Special Events



Lighthouse Awards





USS Triton *Operation Sandblast* Recognition Ceremony



2022 - AAPA COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS
Special Events



Summary

The Port of Benton is home to the USS Triton Sail Park, which houses USS Triton (586). Triton was one of the first nuclear-powered submarines, operated solely by dual nuclear reactors, direct descendants of Hanford reactors, including B Reactor. Hanford, a federally-owned site located north of Richland, WA, is one of the top-secret cities created during WWII, and the location of where the plutonium that ultimately contributed to ending the war, was developed. With a rich nuclear history, the Port of Benton reached out to the Navy in 2011 to inquire about acquiring USS Triton upon its decommissioning.

USS Triton was commissioned in 1959 and at the time, was considered the largest, most powerful submarine ever built. Triton's first mission was the historic Operation Sandblast, the first circumnavigation of the globe, entirely submerged and undetected and led by WWII hero, Captain Edward Beach. The top-secret expedition proved invaluable to the U.S., gathering valuable oceanographic data and demonstrating the crew's endurance and the submarine's capabilities during the Cold War. The submerged circumnavigation covered 26,723 nautical miles, and generally followed the route famed explorer, Ferdinand Magellan had attempted to navigate in 1521.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented Captain Edward Beach with the Legion of Merit and Triton's crew received the Presidential Unit Citation. The New York Times described Triton's mission as *"a triumph of human prowess and engineering skill, a feat which the United States Navy can rank as one of its bright victories in man's ultimate conquest of the seas."*

The Port of Benton felt it was important to re-tell the story of Operation Sandblast and honor the original crew for the significance of Triton's impact on the Nuclear Age. At the time of the original mission, a significant Cold War event took place, which caused the cancellation of an official recognition ceremony and the sailors essentially, went back to work. The Port felt it was due time to host a ceremony that truly embodied the incredible achievement of Operation Sandblast.



Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges

The USS Triton Sail Park is located in north Richland and situated at the beginning of the four-mile Richland Riverfront Trail, which connects with the 23-mile paved Sacajawea Heritage Trail, a beautiful and educational pathway through the area's three cities. Although in a picturesque and serene location, many residents are unaware of the Sail Park's existence, Triton's significant nuclear history, and Operation Sandblast.

Operation Sandblast crew members live around the country, making it difficult to connect with them and also making it difficult for them to travel to the ceremony.

Opportunities

The Port of Benton has been working to obtain grant funding for a Museum and Visitor Center, which would be located across the street from USS Triton Sail Park. The Museum ultimately will showcase Triton, Operation Sandblast, archives and first-hand stories from sailors who served aboard Triton.

The Port was able to connect with original sailors from the Operation Sandblast mission and worked with them to create a memorable and personal recognition ceremony to honor their achievement, acquiring photos and documents from the sailors to present at the ceremony.

The Port worked with Washington State University Tri-Cities Hanford History Project to obtain oral histories from three of the original sailors while they were in the area for the ceremony.

The Port hopes to educate the community about Triton's nuclear-powered reactors and align current Port economic development initiatives such as Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Energy with the many capabilities and advantages of nuclear power.



Mission

PORT OF BENTON STEM TOURISM RESOURCES COMMUNICATION & MARKETING ACTIONS 2021 - 2022

Communication Plan Objective: Develop tour resources to expand the offerings and use of the USS Triton Sail Park

- Expand the offerings and use of the USS Triton Sail Park from the Public Access focus area
- Expand and enhance USS Triton Sail Park tour materials
- Expand and enhance USS Triton Sail Park webpage
- Include photos of visitors inside the sail
- Add updated brochure and other support materials to the webpage



Mission

PORT OF BENTON STEM TOURISM RESOURCES COMMUNICATION & MARKETING ACTIONS 2021 - 2022

Note: The White Bluffs STEM & Visitor Center is proposed to be located on Port-owned land near the USS Triton Sail Park at the northern end of the Technology and Business Campus. This center is envisioned as a destination facility showcasing the scientific innovations of the Tri-Cities and its Hanford regional partners, providing immersive educational and research opportunities for visitors.

The proposed center will also accommodate bus access and parking from visiting tour groups and schools. Shuttle and/or pedestrian access to the Port of Benton high dock on the Columbia River is also proposed to facilitate water taxi service to and from the REACH Museum, Howard Amon Park, river-based hotels and restaurants, and the Kennewick Wine village, or for tour groups opting for a river tour experience to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

Once fully developed, it is projected up to 100,000 visitors per year may visit the center.



Planning & Programming

Goal

The Port of Benton aims to raise awareness on the impact and significance of USS Triton and the role Triton played in the Nuclear Age, including highlighting the remarkable top-secret Operation Sandblast mission.

Work with Partners

Visit Tri-Cities – Continue work with Visit Tri-Cities to update or expand its STEM tourism itineraries to include the USS Triton Sail Park tour, including the development of a virtual tour of the sail to cross-promote.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Work together to cross-promote tour opportunities, as the MPNHP provides tours to the B Reactor, where in WWII, the plutonium was created that ultimately ended the war in the Pacific. Cross-promote the beginning of the nuclear age started locally in Richland, WA and tying in Triton's personal nuclear connection.

LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) – Work together to cross-promote STEM tourism and the presence of science in the community.

REACH Museum – Work together to cross-promote STEM tourism attractions and develop more of a presence in the REACH Cold War gallery.



Planning & Programming

Objectives

- To honor and recognize the original crew of Operation Sandblast
- To engage the community, including STEM partners, with the ceremony
- To increase recognition for USS Triton, including its impact during the Nuclear Age and the historic milestone achievement of Operation Sandblast
- To create buzz and excitement from various media outlets (i.e. print, digital, social)
- To increase awareness in STEM tourism
- To freshen up the USS Triton Sail Park and Triton Sail

Audience

- Operation Sandblast crew and family
- Triton crew from later missions
- Elected officials
- Community partners
- Community



Actions

Strategies

- Worked with Operation Sandblast crew and family members to select a date that coincided with the 62-year anniversary of the original welcome home ceremony
- Aimed to create a jubilant atmosphere, similar to what the crew saw upon return in 1960
- Recreated the Port lobby as an exhibit space with Triton-themed giveaways and refreshments
- Invited local partners and elected officials
- Worked towards creating a level of excitement towards the event
- Offered a livestream feature for those unable to attend in-person





Actions

Actions

- Issued a press release and marketing flyer to promote the event through social media channels; issued several social media posts
- Created individual posters for each crew member who would be attending the ceremony to tell their own story
- Created plaques that represented the Operation Sandblast mission
- Designed Operation Sandblast magnet
- Studied archives, websites and books to acquire as much knowledge as possible about Triton and Operation Sandblast
- Developed banners and yard signs that were identical to what was used in 1960
- Spoke with numerous sailors and family, including Captain Beach's widow, Ingrid Beach while planning the event
- Prepared USS Triton Sail Park as a location for livestream feature
- Pitched the story to local media
- The Port of Benton Commission approved Proclamation 22-01, Honoring the Original Crew of Operation Sandblast to present at the ceremony
- Worked with City of Richland to confirm attendance of Mayor Michael Alvarez and his own presentation of the City proclamation
- Created event day checklist with the Port of Benton facility team
- Repainted Triton, following US Navy specs



Actions

Implementation

- Created a museum style reception in the Port lobby and invited the attendees to visit
- Port staff was stationed around Triton, offering tours of the bridge and conning tower
- Port staff provided courtesy shuttle to offer attendees easy navigation
- Worked with local VFW to present a color guard ceremony
- Unveiled updated Triton fact panels at USS Triton Sail Park
- Introduced updated Triton brochure
- Developed event hashtag to display digitally



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 19, 2022

Event Contact
Summers Miya
summers@portofbenton.com, 509-375-3060

Port to Honor USS Triton's Top-Secret Mission Crew Members Public Invited to Attend the May 12 Recognition Ceremony

Richland, Wash. – Port of Benton is holding a recognition ceremony to honor the original crew members aboard USS Triton (SSRN 586) during the submarine's historic Operation Sandblast mission. The ceremony is Thursday, May 12 at 10 a.m. at the USS Triton Sail Park, 3300 Port of Benton Boulevard in Richland – the same week Triton surfaced off the coast of Delaware following its successful 1960 mission to circumnavigate the globe, entirely submerged and undetected. The top-secret expedition proved invaluable to the U.S., gathering valuable oceanographic data and demonstrating the crew's endurance and the submarine's technical capabilities during the Cold War. Triton's 75-foot-long sail and conning tower are on display at the USS Triton Sail Park to honor submariners and highlight the significance of Triton's impact on the Nuclear Age. The sail park overlooks the port's barge slip and high dock where the U.S. Navy transfers nuclear reactor compartments from decommissioned vessels (including Triton) onshore for delivery to the nearby Hanford Site for permanent storage.

About USS Triton (586) and Operation Sandblast

Triton was one of the first nuclear-powered submarines, operated solely by dual nuclear reactors, direct descendants of Hanford reactors, including the B Reactor. At the time of Triton's commissioning in 1959, it was considered the largest, most powerful and most expensive submarine ever built.

The submerged circumnavigation covered 26,723 nautical miles between February 24 to April 25, 1960, and generally followed the route explorer Ferdinand Magellan had attempted to navigate in 1521. Once the journey around the world was complete, Triton remained underwater, continued to Spain, where a plaque was presented to honor Magellan's and Triton's historic voyages, then arrived in Delaware and surfaced on May 10, 1960.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented Capt. Edward Beach with the Legion of Merit and Triton's crew received the Presidential Unit Citation. The New York Times described Triton's mission as "a triumph of human prowess and engineering skill, a feat which the United States Navy can rank as one of its bright victories in man's ultimate conquest of the seas."

####





Outcomes



1 BANNER - 30 FEET
Welcome Home TRITON

10 SIGNS
WELCOME HOME TRITON



YOU'RE INVITED
Honoring Operation Sandblast
May 12, 2022 - 10 a.m.
3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richmond

Welcome Home TRITON

Meet Members of the Original Triton Crew
Tours Available
Refreshments Served

WELCOME HOME TRITON

WELCOME HOME TRITON

PORT OF BENTON



Outcomes





Outcomes



Above: Port of Benton Commission President Christy Rasmussen presents John Kuester, CS3 with a recognition plaque. **Below:** Port of Benton Commissioner Roy Keck presents Allen Steele, TM3 with a recognition plaque.



Above: Port of Benton Commissioner Lori Stevens presents Chief Petty Officer, Marion Windell, RMCA with a recognition plaque.

Below: City of Richland Mayor Alvarez presents Robert Perkins, RM2 with a recognition plaque.





Outcomes



Congressman Dan Newhouse prepared a Congressional Record to present to the crew in attendance.



Port of Benton Commission presented Proclamation 22-01, honoring the crew of Operation Sandblast.



City of Richland Mayor Michael Alvarez presented a proclamation honoring the crew of Operation Sandblast.



Outcomes

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Honoring Operation Sandblast

February 24 - April 25, 1960

OFFICERS

Edward Latimer Beach Jr., Captain
LCDR Will Mott Adams, Jr., Executive Officer
CDR James E. Stark, MC - Medical Officer
LCDR Robert Dean Fisher, SC - Supply Officer
LCDR Robert William Bulmer - Operations Officer
LT Donald Gune Fears - Engineer Officer
LT Robert Brodie III - Communications Officer
LT Robert P. McDonald - Reactor Control Officer

LT Tom B. Thamm - Auxiliary Division Officer
LT George John Troffer - Electrical Officer
LT Curtis Shellman, Jr. - Machinery Division Officer
LT George Albert Sawyer, Jr. - Gunners Officer
LT Richard Adams Harris - CIC/ECM Officer
LT Milton Robert Rubbs - Electronics Officer
LT James Cahill Hay - Assistant A Division
MACH Phillip B. Kinnia, Jr. - Assistant M Division

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

Chester Raymond Fitzjarrald,
TMC Chief of the Ship
Alfred E. Abel, ENCA
Hugh M. Bennett, Jr., ICC
Joseph H. Blair, Jr., EMCA
James J. DeGange, EMCA
John F. Faerber, ENCA
Lloyd L. Garlock, PTC
William L. Green, SDCA
William R. Hadley, CTC
Walter H. O'Dell, ENCA
Mack Parker, EMCA

Richard H. Peterson, ICCA
Bernard E. Pile, RDCS
Harry W. Hampson, ETCA
Herbert F. Hardman, EMCS
Clarence M. Hatheway, Jr., ENCA
Robert L. Jordan, ICC
Jack H. Judd, ETCS
Ralph A. Kennedy, ENCA
James T. Lightner, ENCA
Lynn S. Loveland, MMCA
William J. Marshall, OMC
George W. McDaniel, SOCA

Frank Rogers, ENC
Frank W. Snyder, ENC
Joseph W. Walker, YMC
Joseph E. Walsh, BMC
LE Poe, EMC
John R. Poole, RDCA
Edwin C. Rauch, EMCS
Joseph Rosenblum, EMCS
Hosie Washington, ENCA
Roy J. Williams, Jr., HMC
Marion A. Windell, RMCA

ENLISTED

Walter J. Allan, ET1
Ronald Everett Almeida, RM2
Erland N. Alto, EN1
Edward G. Arsenault, RM2
Ramon D. Boney, CS2
Robert F. Barrille, EN3
Horace H. Bates, EN2
Curtis K. Beacham, QM1
Lawrence W. Beckhaus, SOT
James C. Bennett, RM2
Nathan L. Blaede, ET1
George M. Bloomingdale, EM1
David E. Boe, SN
John S. Boreczky, Jr., EM3
Robert U. Boylan, ETNSN

Richard L. Brown, EM1
Bertram Cuffilo, DK3
Raymond R. Davis, EN1
James Obie Dixon, Jr., TM2
Martin F. Docker, ET1
Gary L. Dowrey, SOS3H
Ralph F. Droster, EN2
Alan T. Ferdinandsen, IC3
Richard R. Fickel, HM1
James A. Flaherty, RM1
Joseph R. Flasco, EN1
Fred J. Forrester, FN
Rene C. Freeze, RD1
Gerald W. Gallagher, IC1
Bruce F. Goidel, IC3

Adrian D. Gladd, HM1
Edward R. Hadley, EN3
Earl E. Bruch, Jr., CS2
Franklin D. Caldwell, EMFN
Edward C. Caraballo, SD2
Robert M. Carulis, EN1
Robert C. Carter, MM1
Leslie B. Chamberlin, Jr., CS3
Gerald J. Clark, RD3
Charles E. Cleveland, EM1
Calvin R. Cochrane, MM1
Raymond J. Comeau, Jr., EM2
William E. Constantine, FT1
William J. Crow, CS1
Ronald D. Kottlahake, EMFN

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Honoring Operation Sandblast
February 24 - April 25, 1960

ENLISTED (continued)

Richard B. Knorr, ENEN
Peter P. J. Kollar, GM1
John F. Kuester, CS2
Raymond R. Kuhn, Jr., FN
Leonard F. Lehnman, EM1
Larry M. MacG, EM1
Ress S. MacGregor, FT2
Edward J. Madden, EN2
Anton F. Madden, QM3
Robert M. Maerkel, FN
Carl C. Hall, QM3
Lawrence C. Hawkins, Jr., EN1
Charles G. Harris, EN2
Ralph W. Harris, EN2
David L. Hartman, EN2
Gene B. Hoke, IC1
William C. Holly, RD2
Floyd W. Honeysette, QM2
Berton J. Mosebom, IC1
Wilbur A. Jones, TM2
Edward K. Kammer, EM1
Fred Kmetz, SN
Donald R. Quick, EN1
Kenneth J. Remillard, SOT
Max L. Rose, SN
Richard M. Rowlands, TM1
Jerry D. Saunders, RD2

Russell K. Savage, QM2
Paul K. Schulze, EN1
Thomas J. Schwartz, TM3
Stanley L. Sievking, TM1
Donald P. Singleton, EN3
Gordon E. Simpson, ET1
Harry A. Marenbach, MM1
Harold J. Marley, Jr., RM1
Arlan F. Martin, EN3
George W. Mather, ET1
Boyd L. McConko, EN1
Douglas G. McIntyre, EN1
William A. McKenney, SN
J. C. Meaders, HM1
Charles F. Medrow II, ETN3
Roger A. Miller, QM3
Philip P. Mortimer, Jr., EN2
John Moulton, FA
Larry E. Musselman, MM1
Bruce H. Nelson, FN
Ronald D. Nelson, EN1
Rudolf P. Neustadter, IC3
Raymond J. O'Brien, SK1
Harry Olsen, EN2
Charles S. Penkovic, ETRSN
Charles P. Peace, ET2
Robert C. Perkins, Jr., RM2

Richard M. Phenicio, IC3
Russell F. Pion, ET1
James H. Smith, Jr., SN
Peter F. Springer, EN1
Allen W. Stead, TM3
Richard W. Stealey, EN3
James A. Steinhauser, EN3
Gerald Royden Stott, ET1
Leonard H. Strong, EN3
Robert E. Tumbling, TM1
Joseph W. Tilands, SN
Jessie L. Vot, EN1
James O. Ward, SD3
William R. Walsh, MM1
Henry H. Waycast, EN1
Robert W. Whitehouse, EN1
Lamar C. Williams, EN2
William Williams, EN1
Audley R. Wilson, RD1
Donald R. Wilson, SD3
John W. Woodbridge, RM1
Gordon W. Yether, EN1
Raymond F. Young, YNSN
Robert C. Zane, YN2
Herbert J. Zoller, EM1
George V. Putnam, TM2
Ernest O. Zimmerman, RD2

TECHNICAL & SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

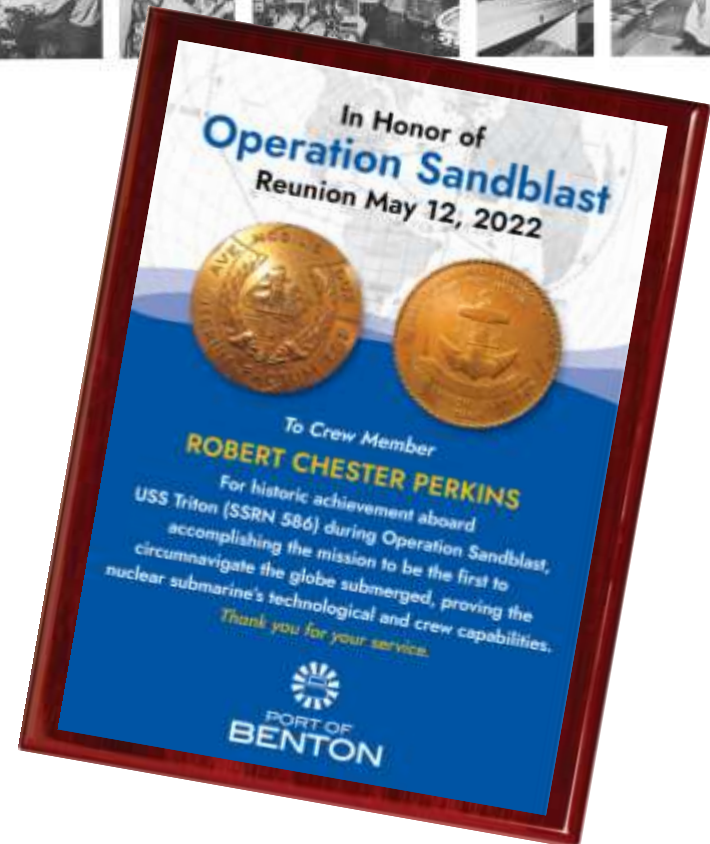
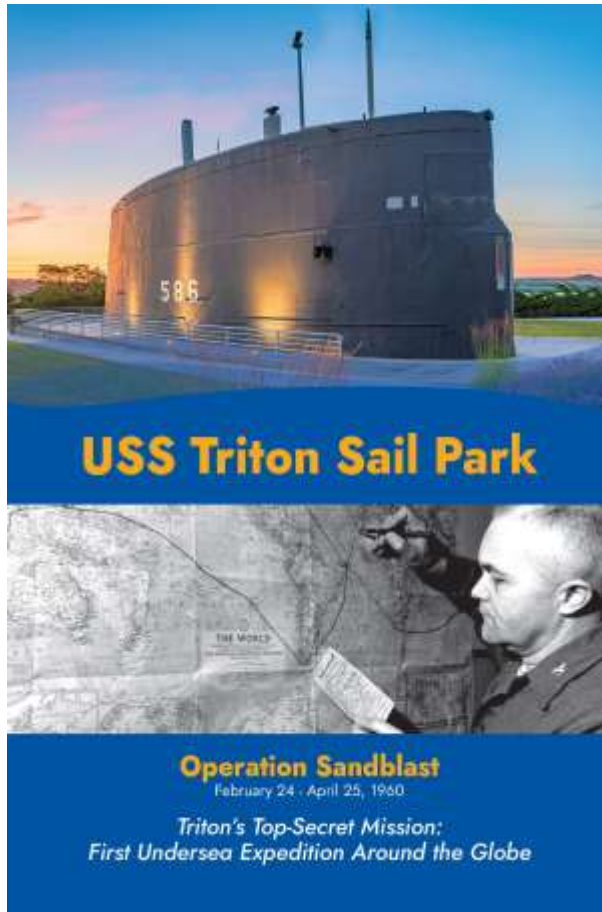
CDR Joseph B. Roberts, USNR, Office of Information, Navy Department
Earnest R. Meadows, PH1
Dr. Benjamin B. Weybrew, Psychologist, Naval Medical Research Laboratory,
Submarine Base, New London
Mr. Michael Smalek, Geophysicist, USN Hydrographic Office
Mr. Gordon E. Wilkes, Civil Engineer, USN Hydrographic Office
Mr. Nicholas R. Mabry, Oceanographer, USN Hydrographic Office
Mr. Frank E. McConnell, Engineer, General Dynamics
Mr. Eldon E. Good, Inertial Guidance Division, Sperry



Posters included the names of every sailor
aboard Triton during Operation Sandblast.



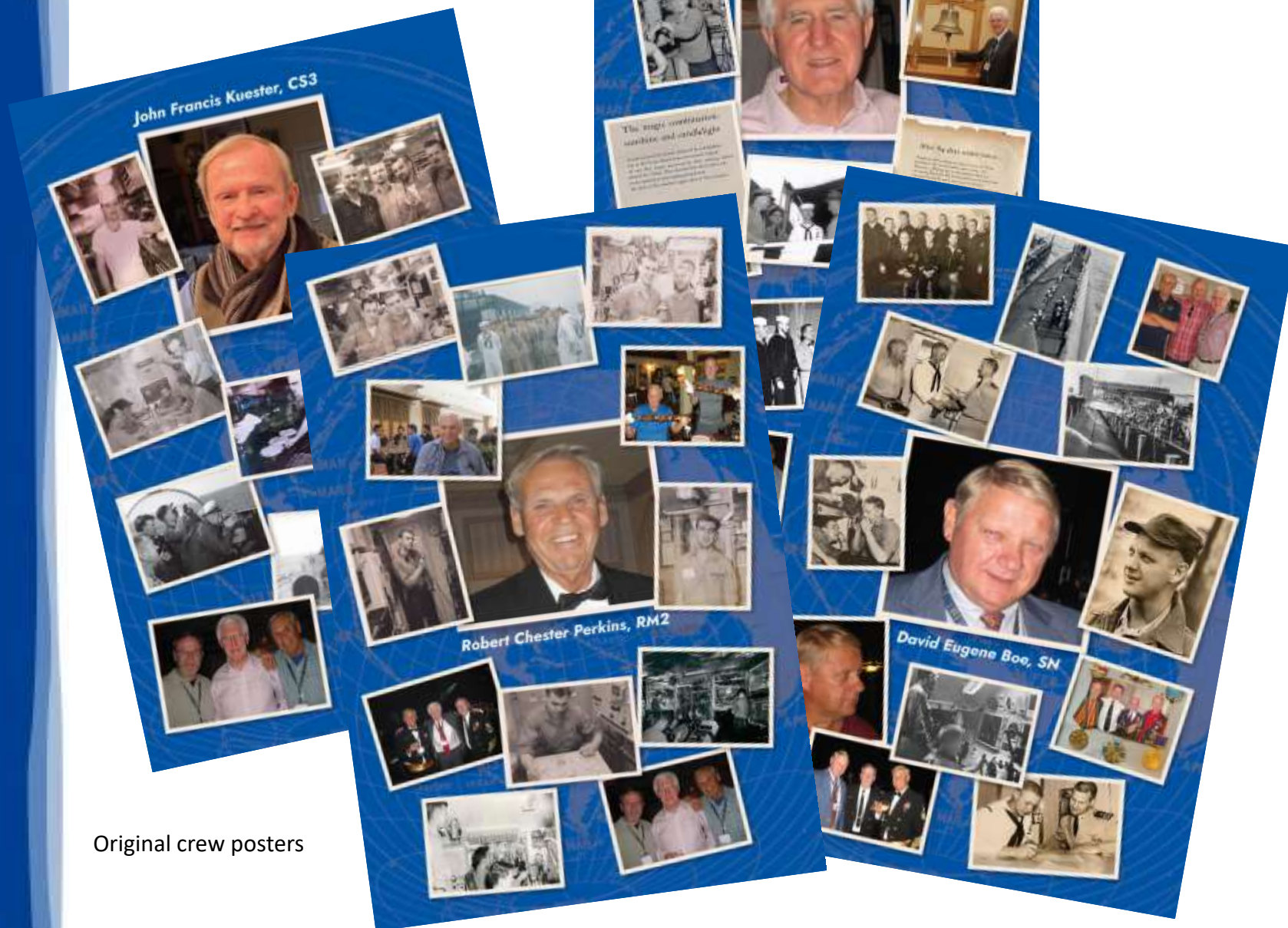
Outcomes



Above: Updated Triton brochure **Above Right:** Schematic poster **Bottom Right:** Plaque



Outcomes



Original crew posters

USS TRITON INTERESTING FACTS

USS TRITON INTERESTING FACTS

Triton was the second U.S. Navy submarine named for the Greek god Triton (messenger god of the sea). This naming convention was unusual because the Navy traditionally assigned fish names to its submarines at that time.

USS TRITON INTERESTING FACTS

In a dark early morning hours of March 5, Triton crew members helped transfer Chief Radarman J. R. Poole, who was suffering from kidney stones, to USS Macon near Montevideo, Uruguay, for transport to the hospital. The upper part of Triton's sail breached the surface, but the hull remained underwater (99% of the submarine), which allowed Triton to preserve its undersea record.

The nonclassified name for the top-secret mission was "Operation Sandblast," partially named after Capt. Beach, as his code name was "Sand."

The words come with a
rhyme. The way was in the
interest of a few the least and
would "take a lot of work" or
not just. Hence "Surrealism"
Hence, this way was possible
with name: Lord, Grand-
Bunch, their business was
of work. I was influenced

Excerpt by Arthur Clegg
Edward L. Bunch was in
around the World State

During its under-
Triton would go
around the wa-
explorer Ferre
(c. 1480-152
with his crew

Friday, 22 April 1986 (All about Bob, Greenwell Bow Bow card)

Triton's commander, Capt. Edward L. Beach, Jr., was a highly-decorated U.S. Navy officer and best-selling author of 13 books. Clark Gable's Burl Lancaster starred in the 1958 Hollywood movie "Silent, Run Deep," based on Beach's novel.

For completing the first submerged circumnavigation of the world, President Eisenhower awarded Capt. Beach the Legion of Merit and all Triton crew members with the Presidential Unit Citation.

A large bronze plaque commemorates Triton's journey, inscribed "1519, 1960 Ave Nobili Dux, Iterum Factum Est," meaning "Hail Noble Captain, It Is Done Again."

RUN SILENT, RUN DEEP

Weekly Routine Aboard Triton

Monday and Tuesday are regular days, with drills, lectures, school at the ship and classes during the time to 1500 watch.

Wednesday is a "Woke Yare Sunday" - Yare traditional costumes from deils while at sea. During the sailing days this was the opportunity, if weather was good, to get up one's bit for merriment or visiting, generally to the odd jobs of one's own making, or just to relax in the sun.

Thursday is a regular shift day.

Prayer is "Field Day", and is the only day when events are held in the morning. After Field Day there is a formal luncheon by the Commanding Officer. If you find the 6 to 8 march in the morning, you will have the 10 to 12 march that same evening with Field Day and Supper in the kitchen. That makes a long day; but every two weeks an equal day by skipping the march.

PROTESTANTISM AND LUTHERANISM

The Reformation movement began in 1517 and culminated in 1530 at the Diet of Augsburg. The Diet of Augsburg was a meeting of the Holy Roman Empire, convened by Emperor Charles V, to discuss the religious and political situation of the empire. The Diet of Augsburg was a significant event in the history of the Reformation, as it was the first time that the Protestant movement was officially recognized by the Holy Roman Empire. The Diet of Augsburg was a turning point in the history of the Reformation, as it marked the beginning of the Protestant movement's acceptance by the Holy Roman Empire.

The Diet of Augsburg was a significant event in the history of the Reformation, as it marked the beginning of the Protestant movement's acceptance by the Holy Roman Empire. The Diet of Augsburg was a turning point in the history of the Reformation, as it marked the beginning of the Protestant movement's acceptance by the Holy Roman Empire.

Dieter Schwaninger

THE REFORMATION AND LUTHERANISM
Aug. 15, 1530

Interesting fact posters



Outcomes



Port lobby featuring exhibit pieces and Triton-themed magnets and cookies



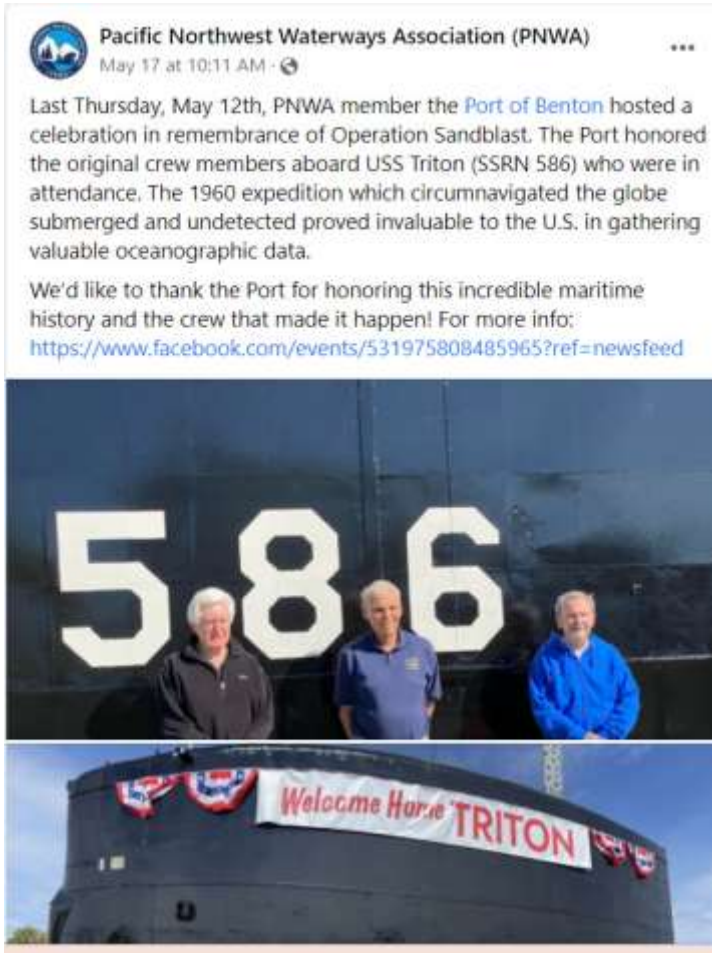
Outcomes



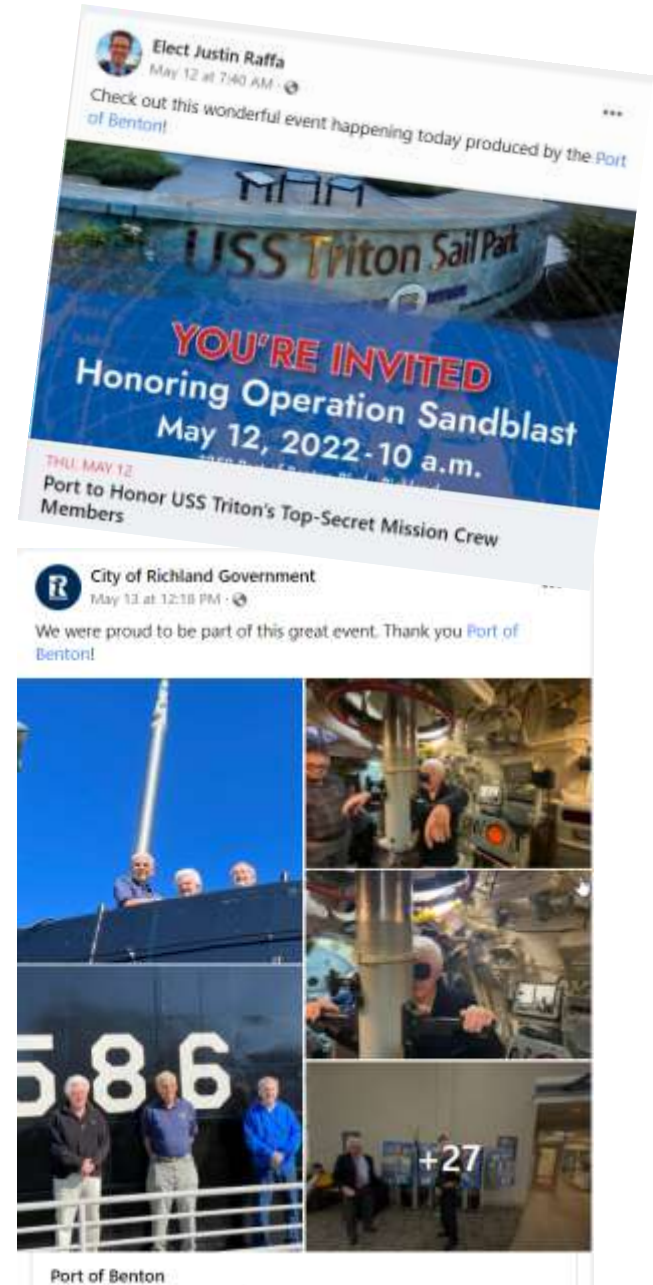
Positive press



Outcomes



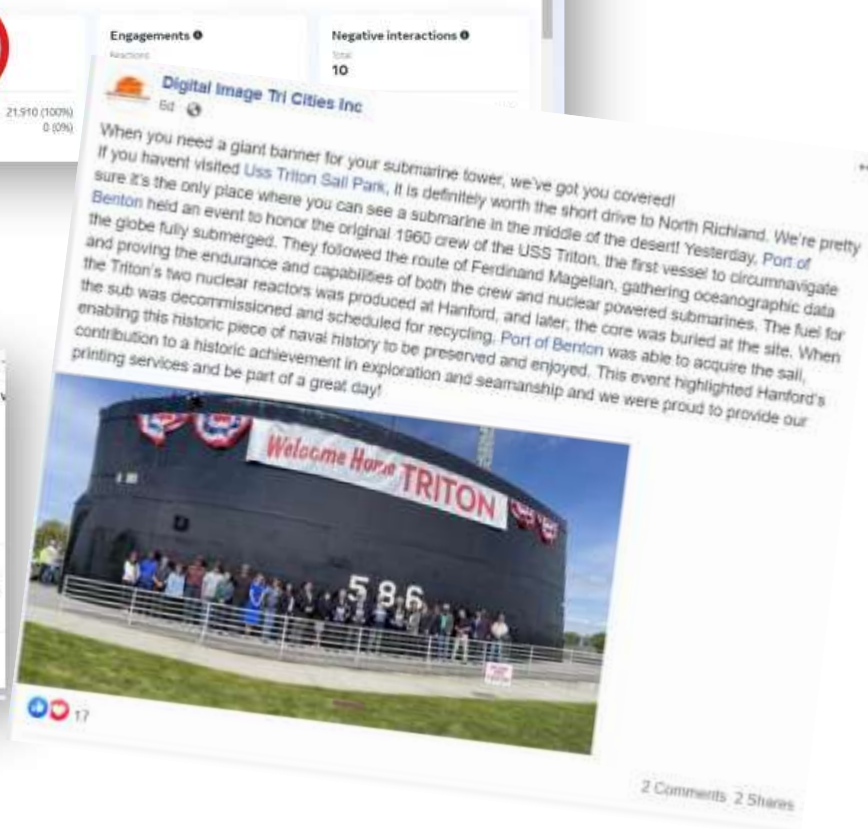
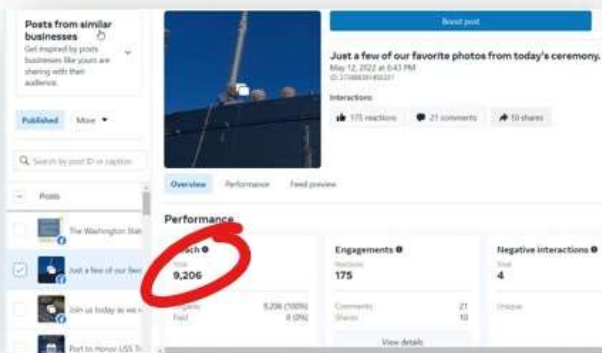
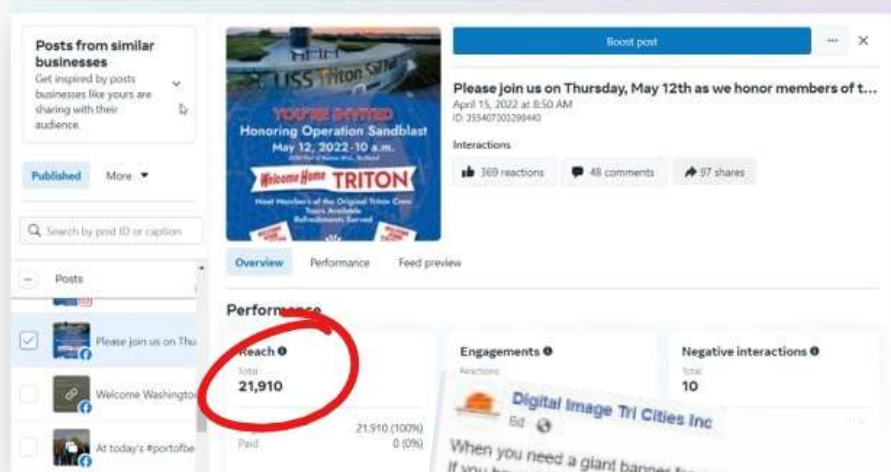
Positive press cont.





Outcomes

Expansive
digital reach





Outcomes

Press Received

[NBC Right Now](#)

[KEPR TV](#)

[YakTriNews.com](#)

[Tri-Cities Senior Times](#)

[KONA News Radio](#)

Watch the event [here!](#)



USS Triton - Honoring Operation Sandblast

23 hours ago · More

Port of Benton [Follow](#)





AAPA Lighthouse Awards | Special Events USS Triton Recognition Ceremony

Outcomes



From: [Port of Benton Website](#)
To: [Sammen, Elia](#)
Subject: Direct Email - Subject: Triton
Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:26:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Port of Benton. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First Name: Raymond

Last Name: Young

Email: [\[redacted\]](#)

Subject: Triton

Message: [\[redacted\]](#)
The circumnavigation was the most exciting thing I ever participated in in my entire Navy career. I hope all goes well for you and those participating. God Bless, Ray Young

From: [Port of Benton Website](#)
To: [Sammen, Elia](#)
Subject: Direct Email - Subject: USS TRITON CREW MEMBER HONORS
Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022 3:07:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Port of Benton. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First Name: Anthony

Last Name: H

Email: [\[redacted\]](#)

Subject: USS TRITON CREW MEMBER HONORS

Message: Hello
My father-in-law Edward R Hadley was a member of the USS Triton (SSRN 586) honored last week. Edward collected water samples during the circumnavigation which later were on display at the sub museum in New London, CT. Edward is now 86 yrs old. I am contacting you on the outside chance your organization generated any commemorative memorabilia honoring the Triton crew members? If so, I would like to arrange for Edward to receive recognition for his service.
Kindest regards,
Anthony

From: [Port of Benton Website](#)
To: [Sammen, Elia](#)
Subject: Direct Email - Subject: Thank you for the Triton Ceremony
Date: Monday, May 26, 2022 8:13:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Port of Benton. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Perkins

Email: [\[redacted\]](#)

Subject: Thank you for the Triton Ceremony
Message: My father Robert C. Perkins was thrilled to take part in the ceremony. He talked about it for several months. Thank you very much for hosting this recognition.

Sincerely, Robert J. Perkins

Thank you
messages



Outcomes

Dear Summers Miya,

I was very excited to see your email regarding the upcoming ceremony to honor the crew of USS Triton's Operation Sandblast. My father, Chief Machinist Mate Lawrence Campbell Hankins Jr, was a member of that crew. At the age of 90, my father past peacefully on a Monday morning at home surrounded by his loving family on the final day of November, 2020. Here is an excerpt from his eulogy:

"So in was in the military that Hank had his 15 minutes of fame on a global scale. Over the course of 84 days the USS Triton circumnavigated the world submerged. And by doing so the crew members forever etched their names into the history books. Operation Sandblast was the first and only mission of its kind. Unfortunately, its successful completion coincided with the downing of a U2 piloted by Captain Powers over the Soviet Union. So the White House ceremony was cancelled and the crew simply went back to work. But in 2020, they finally got to celebrate at the 50th anniversary of that historic journey as honored guests at the Submariner's Ball. 2200 people filled a beautifully decorated ball room at the Foxwood Casino. At one point in the evening, the MC asked every sub qualified sailor to standup. Hundreds of men, active duty and retired, rose to their feet. He then told the ones with less than 5 years of qualification to sit down. Then 10 years, 15, 20. He finally stopped at 50 years and just handful of veterans remained standing, one of which was Pappy. And then something truly remarkable happened. One by one the sailors in the vicinity of our table stood back up and form a line so they could shake the hand of Chief Machinist Mate Lawrence Campbell Hankins Jr."

Those words that I wrote over one and a half years ago never cease to bring tears to my eyes, but they are the best kind of tears; ones filled with sadness, joy and pride. I had the privilege of being with my family at three of his Triton reunions beginning with that one in New London, Conn; my birth place. I miss my father but I find great joy in remembering him. Especially the memories of him amongst his shipmates; truly some of the happiest moments of our lives.

Please know that my family is eternally grateful to the Port of Benton for honoring the crew of Operation Sandblast; they truly earned it.

David James Hankins

P.S. Any chance this ceremony is being recorded and/or

It was an awesome day!! Great weather and a great reflection on history! 🎉🏆
Like Reply 1w

Port of Benton visiting the Triton sail in Triton Park is on my bucket list but I'm on the other side of the country and running out of time. Ill be 81 in a few months. I really enjoyed your photos and commemoration. Thanks for posting.
Like Reply 4d

More thank you messages

There are not words that could ever express what our time in Richland meant to all of us. You did such a magnificent job. Thank you for the great care and concern you gave to every detail. Such beautiful friendships were renewed, old stories revisited and new memories were made. All of the crew felt so honored and were deeply touched, as we all were. What you have created at the Port of Benton / Triton Sail Park is so special. You are preserving an amazing time in our country's history. Your vision for things moving forward will truly continue to educate people and allow them a very personal experience.
As I said at lunch: Dearest Wally and Summers, we extend great thanks to you. Without your passion, care and vision, the magical dream of our special day...should never have come true!
With our sincere gratitude,
Susan & John



Outcomes

The Port of Benton has received more than 40 requests for personal tours of Triton since the May 12, 2022, ceremony.

The Port plans to continue building partner relationships with the goal to expand STEM tourism in the area, with Triton being a showcased STEM asset.

The Port will continue to align Triton's nuclear history with community and state Clean Energy and Advanced Manufacturing initiatives.

The Port has received additional Triton-related archives from past crew members to add to the collection, with hopes of displaying at the future museum.





PORT OF
BENTON