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December 6, 2023

The Honorable Carlos Del Torro  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 230350

Dear Secretary Del Torro:

On behalf of York County, Virginia, I would like to request that the United States Navy consider commissioning a new USS Yorktown in commemoration of the upcoming Semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of our great nation in October 2031. The historical significance of the name USS Yorktown is deeply rooted in the heroic contributions of its predecessors during pivotal moments in American naval history. Introducing a new USS Yorktown would not only pay homage to the legacy of its predecessors but also serve as a symbol of continuity and strength as we approach this significant milestone.

There have been several ships named USS Yorktown in the history of the United States Navy. The most notable include the USS Yorktown (CV-5), an aircraft carrier that was commissioned in 1937 and played a significant role in the early stages of World War II, particularly in the Battle of Midway. Unfortunately, it was sunk during the Battle of Midway in June 1942. Additionally, the USS Yorktown (CV-10) was an Essex-class aircraft carrier commissioned in 1943 during World War II. It served in the Pacific Theater and played a role in various campaigns. After the war, it was involved in the testing of nuclear weapons during Operation Crossroads. USS Yorktown (CV-10) was decommissioned in 1970 and is now a museum ship at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in South Carolina.

The Semiquincentennial provides a unique opportunity to honor our nation's maritime heritage and the sacrifices made by those who have served in the Navy. I believe that a new USS Yorktown would stand as a fitting tribute, showcasing the Navy's commitment to tradition, valor, and the safeguarding of our nation's maritime interests. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Tim Kaine, United States Senator  
The Honorable Mark R. Warner, United States Senator  
The Honorable Robert Wittman, United States Congressman  
Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Brian P. Fuller, Assistant County Administrator

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*A Hampton Roads Community*