

**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:** Jason Nichols  
Norfolk Festevents  
nicholsj@festevents.org  
757-441-2345



**2017 Sail Norfolk  
Welcomes Fleet of Tall Ships to  
the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest®  
presented by AT&T**

***The Largest, Longest-Running, FREE Maritime Festival in the Nation!***  
Friday, June 9– Sunday, June 11, 2017 on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront

NORFOLK, VA – (February 3, 2017) – Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. is proud to announce that Sail Norfolk, the tall ship and maritime division of Norfolk Festevents, welcomes an impressive fleet of tall ships to the **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest®** Friday, June 9, 2017 – Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Town Point Park along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront.

The long-standing tradition of Norfolk Harborfest® activates the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront with radiant summer excitement as it brings the community together to enjoy the largest, longest-running, and free maritime festival in the Nation.

The 2017 Sail Norfolk/Norfolk Harborfest® sets sail Friday, June 9, 2017, with the Parade of Sail and continues with fantastic photo opportunities, international educational experiences, with all the tall ships open for free public tours throughout the entire weekend.

This free, family-friendly weekend event is filled with three days of both land and sea activities to capture the hearts of all ages! **Festival hours:** Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 11 pm, Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 11 pm, and Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 6 pm.

**The 2017 Sail Norfolk/Norfolk Harborfest® tall ship fleet includes:**

- **USCGC EAGLE- USA**
- **ESMERALDA-Chile**
- **GUAYAS-Ecuador**
- **LA UNIÓN- Peru**, the newest tall ship of South American and making its first appearance to the Norfolk
- **EL GALEÓN –Spain**, making its first appearance in Norfolk.
- **SUSAN CONSTANT- Jamestown Settlement, VA**
- **VIRGINIA- Norfolk, VA**

**The following is a list of visiting tall ships**

**USCGC EAGLE: USA**



The majestic sailing ship, the Coast Guard Cutter *EAGLE*, provides USCG Academy cadets and officer candidates with their first taste of sea and salt air. Built in Germany in 1936 and re-commissioned by the United States at the close of World War II, the *EAGLE* is the largest tall ship flying the Stars and Stripes.

*EAGLE's* home port is New London, Conn., on the Thames River at the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. The *EAGLE's* primary mission is training for cadets and officer candidates. However, the Coast Guard

accommodates requests for a limited number of port visits each year, when these do not interfere with the cutter's primary training mission.

To maneuver *EAGLE* under sail, the crew must handle more than 22,000 square feet of sail and five miles of rigging. Over 200 lines control the sails and yards, and every crew-member, cadet and officer candidate, must become intimately familiar with the name, operation, and function of each line.

### Facts & History: USCGEAGLE

- USCGC *EAGLE* is the sixth U.S. Coast Guard cutter to bear the name in a proud line dating back to 1792. The ship was built in 1936 by the Blohm and Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, and commissioned as *Horst Wessel*. (Five identical sister ships were also built.)
- Speed under full sail: 17 knots
- Height: 147.3'
- Length: 295'
- A permanent crew of six officers and 55 enlisted personnel

- 
- **ESMERELDA:** Home Port: Valparaiso, Chile



Originally intended to become a sail training ship of the Spanish Navy, construction of *ESMERELDA* (which began in 1946) ground to a halt one year later as the shipyard in Cadiz suffered significant explosions, damaging the vessel in the process. In 1951, with the vessel still incomplete, she was officially handed to Chile as part of debt repayments for assistance provided by Chile during the Spanish Civil War. Construction of the vessel was then continued. She was launched in 1953 and officially delivered to the Chilean Government in 1954.

Since her launch she has operated as a sail training ship of the Chilean Navy and as an ambassador for the nation across the world attending many key tall ships events such as Operation Sail (1964, 1976 and 1986), Osaka World Sail in 1983 and numerous editions of The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Races.

### Facts & History: ESMERELDA

- Owned and operated by Chilean Navy
- Commissioned in 1954
- Length: 371'
- Height: 43'
- Draft: 19' 8"
- Beam: 42' 8"

- 
- **LA UNIÓN:** Home Port: El Callao, Peru



LA UNIÓN, built in 2014, is a Peruvian Navy training vessel. It is a steel hulled, full rigged ship that sails as an ambassador for Peru. Construction on LA UNIÓN began in 2012, and was completed and commissioned in 2016. The ship also features an auditorium, library, computer lab, and various classrooms where cadets study meteorology, oceanography, and hydrography along with traditional naval operations and sailing maneuvers.

### Facts & History: LA UNIÓN

- Owned and operated by Peruvian Navy
- Commissioned in 2016
- Built by SIMA, Callao, Peru
- Length 379 ft.
- Speed under full sail: 12 knots

- **GUAYAS:** Home Port: Guayaquil, Ecuador



The GUAYAS is a Class A Tall Ship that's serves as a training ship for the Ecuadorian Navy. The ship is a three masted barque with a steel hull, built in 1977. With the help of its crew of 16 officers, 43 midshipmen, and 94 enlisted sailors, GUAYAS routinely sails in tall ship races and regattas all over the world. GUAYAS has currently sailed well over 375,000 miles and visited over 25 countries.

#### **Facts and History: GUAYAS**

- Owned by Ecuadorian Navy
- Commissioned in 1977
- Length 257 ft.
- Beam: 34'9"
- Draft: 15'4"
- Power: Wind/Diesel

- **EL GALEÓN:**Home Port: Andalusia, Spain



EL GALEÓN is a 1/1 scale replica of a 16th century Spanish. Five of the six decks are available for tour, which holds an exhibition about the "San Pelayo," the Spanish galleon that founded St. Augustine, the first city in the U.S. The ship carries an all-Spanish crew that lives and breathes the history of the ship and her travels from port to port and in the open sea.

Many Spanish expeditions were sent to survey the American coasts in the 16th century. These explorations were soon followed by numerous expeditions for trade and for populating the newly discovered areas. More and more supplies and equipment were delivered to the New World. In time, the ships that were used for exploration were insufficient for the increasing volume of traffic between Spain and America, and it became necessary to design and build a new type of ship with more cargo capacity, defense capabilities and better maneuverability. It was during this period that Spanish galenos arose. It was the captains of the Spanish navy, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and Álvaro de Bazán, who designed the definitive long and relatively narrow hulled galleon for Spain in the 1550s.

#### **Facts & History: EL GALEÓN**

- Commissioned in 2010
- Made from Oak, Pine, and Iroko woods
- Height: 34'
- Length: 168'
- Draft: 11'
- Beam: 34'

- **SUSAN CONSTANT:** Home Port: Jamestown Settlement, USA



*SUSAN CONSTANT* was the largest of three ships of the English Virginia Company (the others being *Discovery* and *Godspeed*) on the 1606 - 1607 voyage that resulted in the founding of Jamestown in the new Colony of Virginia. *SUSAN CONSTANT* was rated at 120 tons. Her keel length is estimated at 55.2 feet (16.8 meters). Her overall length from tip to stern is estimated at 116 feet.

On the 1606–1607 voyages, she carried 71 colonists, all male, one of whom was John Smith of Pocahontas fame. She returned to England in May 1607. She served as a merchant ship through at least 1615. Her fate is not known. Replicas of *SUSAN CONSTANT* and her sisters, *GODSPEED* and *DISCOVERY*, are docked in the James River at Jamestown Settlement (formerly Jamestown Festival Park), adjacent to Historic Jamestown.

In May 2007, the United States Postal Service issued the first 41-cent denomination first class stamp. The stamp had an image of *SUSAN CONSTANT*, *GODSPEED*, and *DISCOVERY*. *SUSAN CONSTANT* was also depicted on Virginia's coin of the 50 State Quarters, in celebration of the quadricentennial of Jamestown.

On April 26, 1607, three passenger ships reached the shores of modern-day Virginia. The largest, named the *SUSAN CONSTANT*, carried 54 members of a 105-man colonization mission. Arriving thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed at what is now Plymouth, Mass., this group of Englishmen came in search of gold and glory in the New World under the direction of the Virginia Company. Their founding of Jamestown began a long and checkered chapter in American colonial history

In 1991, the Commonwealth of Virginia financed a \$2.14 million life-sized reproduction of the *SUSAN CONSTANT*. The ship took a short tour of the Chesapeake Bay area in 2007 as part of Jamestown's 400th Anniversary Celebration, and can now be seen in the Jamestown Settlement National Park.

### Facts & History: SUSAN CONSTANT

- Commissioned in 1989 based on 1607 original
- Height: 95'
- Length: 116
- Draft: 11'6"
- Beam: 24'10"

- 
- **VIRGINIA:** Home Port: Norfolk, USA



The original schooner *VIRGINIA* was commissioned by the Virginia Pilots Association and designed by naval engineers Cox and Stevens. Pilots Association president William Rowe Boutwell instructed the designers to model the vessel after the America's Cup competitors of the day. She was built by A.C. Brown & Son of Tottenville, Staten Island, New York, and was completed in 1916. Although steamboats were readily available at the time, *VIRGINIA* was built with no engines to maintain the pilots' sailing skills and train new apprentices.

*VIRGINIA* served actively as a pilot vessel during World War I. Following the war, she was fitted with two 75 hp diesel engines, which necessitated a shortening of her fore boom to accommodate a smokestack.

In 1939, *VIRGINIA* was sold to Walter K. Queen of Boston. She was sold again in 1944, and in 1945 was sold to her final owner, William H. Hoeffler of New York. In 1947 she was reported "stranded".

## Facts & History: VIRGINIA

- Two Masted Schooner, seven sails
- Commissioned in 2005
- Beam: 23.8'
- Length: 122'
- Draft: 12.25'

---

## 2017 Sail Norfolk Tall Ships and Parade of Sail:

The spectacular **Harborfest® Parade of Sail**, under the direction of the Virginia Pilots Association and led by USCG *EAGLE*, will enter the Downtown Norfolk Harbor on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Following tradition, this impressive fleet will include tall ships, Navy ships, character vessels, sleek power cruisers, sailing craft, antique and classic wooden boats, military vessels, tugs and more! Thousands of onlookers stationed at vantage points along the Elizabeth River will be able to witness this expansive fleet as it dances down the river towards Town Point Park.

**Public Docking:** All docking on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront is on a reservation basis only, except for short-term dinghy docking at designated locations on the Norfolk waterfront. Time limits (no overnight docking) and size (16' or smaller) limits apply.

- Docking in the Hospital Point Anchorage in the Elizabeth River across from Town Point Park will be free of charge and available on a first come, first serve basis.
- A water taxi service will be available for boaters at anchorage with transportation to both the Norfolk and Portsmouth Downtown Waterfronts. Rates of the day will apply.

Please continue to visit [www.festevents.org](http://www.festevents.org) for regular updates!

The 2017 Sail Norfolk and 41st Annual Norfolk Harborfest® presented by AT&T, is produced by Norfolk Festevents and the City of Norfolk. For more information on Norfolk Harborfest® as well as other events throughout the year, including hours, park regulations and parking please visit [www.festevents.org](http://www.festevents.org) or call 757.441.2345.

**Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.**, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10-month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments—Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk's official event marketing agency since the city's downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming, and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun, and livable waterfront communities in the country.

###