

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City to Welcome USS New York LPD-21 Ship Built with World Trade Center Steel and Named in Honor of the Victims of September 11th to Mark Entry into the U.S. Navy

JERSEY CITY- Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, the Jersey City Police Department and the Jersey City Fire Department will host a gathering as part of the historical celebration **Commissioning the USS New York LPD-21** beginning at **7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 2, 2009** at the Jersey City Waterfront at **Exchange Place**, at the foot of Montgomery Street.

USS New York LPD-21, officially named for the state but informally pays tribute to New York City and the victims of the 9/11 attacks, will be making its way up the Hudson River and will stop at the World Trade Center site, where the vessel's flag will be lowered to half mast. There will also be a 21-gun salute in honor of the 9/11 victims and their families.

“It is with great honor that Jersey City partakes in this historic moment,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We can stand as a proud nation because of the thousands of brave men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our country.”

Jersey City's very own **Fire Department Marine I vessel, the *Joseph Lovero***, will escort the USS New York LPD-21 as it docks. Uniformed Police Officers and firefighters will stand amongst spectators during this historical event to pay their respect to the lives lost in the 9/11 tragedy and salute the many men and women who courageously fought and continue to fight for our freedom and liberties.

Governor George E. Pataki wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England requesting that the Navy revive the name USS New York in honor of the victims of September 11th and to give it a surface warship involved in the war on terror. In his letter, the Governor said he understood state names presently are reserved for submarines but asked for special consideration so the name could be given to a surface ship. The request was approved on August 28, 2002.

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On August 4, 2005, the LPD 21's bow stem with its World Trade Center steel was erected into the main hull and will forever lead the future USS New York. The complete bow was erected into place in March 2006.

The history of naming U.S. Navy ships "New York" goes back to the Revolution and has a proud heritage that continues today. USS New York (LPD-21) is the fifth ship in the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock.

"USS New York, fittingly named, symbolizes the strength and resilience of the American people," said **Mayor Healy**. "As it sails across waters, it will serve as a reminder of the true spirit of our community. On that tragic day, there was an outpouring of support and patriotism. Thousands of people, especially our Jersey City residents and first responders, spent countless hours assisting those in need. The Jersey City waterfront became a staging ground for the recovery and relief efforts. Now, our waterfront welcomes USS New York and we stand together to honor the courage and compassion of the American people and our military forces."

The 684-foot-long amphibious transport dock ship, built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in New Orleans, will carry a Navy crew of 363 and 699 Marines. The ship will be used to transport and land Marines, their equipment and supplies by embarked air cushions or conventional landing craft or amphibious vehicles, augmented by helicopters or vertical takeoff and landing aircraft in amphibious assault, special operations, or expeditionary warfare missions.

The ship incorporates the latest quality of life standards for the embarked sailors and Marines, including the sit-up berth, ship services mall, a fitness center and learning resource center and electronic classroom with the flexibility to accommodate mixed gender sailors and Marines as part of the crew and embarked troops. The design team also incorporated hundreds of suggestions and recommendations from more than 1,000 sailors and Marines in the Design for Ownership process to ensure that this ship will meet their needs throughout the first half of the 21st century. USS New York is a vital unit of the operating forces of the United States Navy.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///