



Press Release

Contact: Clair Sassin

clair@tallshipprovidence.org

703-304-6685

Tall Ship Providence Foundation Announces Partnership with HII for 4th Grade Education Program

Country's oldest ship builder looks to educate our future workforce

September 26 , 2022 (Alexandria, Virginia) – The Tall Ship Providence Foundation announced today that HII, America's largest military ship building company, has committed \$1 million for the HII 4th Grade Education Program at the Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, Home Port of Tall Ship *Providence*. The goal of the program is to educate all 4th graders in the Commonwealth of the history and continuing importance of shipbuilding to the nation.

The 4th Grade Education Program sponsored by HII will take place on Virginia's newest floating museum based in Alexandria, Virginia. The program will feature a video created specifically for 4th graders on building ships for the U.S. Navy. Students will learn about *Providence's* rich history and discover what life was like for the men and boys who sailed during the 18th century. Visitors will board the first warship authorized by the Continental Congress for the Continental Navy and learn about the role *Providence* and other ships played in the American Revolution.

Once aboard students will visit the Captain's Cabin, go below the deck to see where and how sailors lived and tour the main deck. Students will also have the opportunity to meet Revolutionary War hero Captain John Paul Jones and hear of his latest adventure aboard *Providence* and visit the Center's Education Center and Naval History Theater.

"We are thrilled to have HII's support for this critically important education program," said Clair S. Sassin, TSPF's president and CEO. "HII's generous sponsorship will allow us to welcome 4th grade students from across the Commonwealth and enhance their understanding of our country's history and the role of the Continental Navy," Sassin continued.

"It is a privilege to show our commitment to the education of future generations with this program," said Chris Kastner, president and CEO of HII. "The great tradition of shipbuilding continues today in the shipyards of HII in Virginia and Mississippi. My hope is that learning the stories of the past and opportunities of the future will inspire young talent to step forward and shape tomorrow's technologies and ships that remain critical to the security of our nation."

HII is the largest supplier of U.S. Navy surface combatants having built more than 70 percent of the Navy fleet of warships for more than 136 years at Newport News, Virginia and 83 years at Pascagoula, Mississippi.

The Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center is scheduled to open in late spring 2023. The Center is located at the end of King Street, just off to the south in front of Waterfront Park.

About HII

HII is an all-domain defense and technologies partner, recognized worldwide as America's largest shipbuilder. With a 135-year history of trusted partnerships in advancing U.S. national security, HII delivers critical capabilities ranging from the most powerful and survivable naval ships ever built, to unmanned systems, ISR and AI/ML analytics. HII leads the industry in mission-driven solutions that support and enable an all-domain force. Headquartered in Virginia, HII's skilled workforce is 44,000 strong.

About Tall Ship Providence Foundation (TSPF)

TSPF is dedicated to preserving the country's rich maritime history through educational programs and entertainment. *Providence* is Northern Virginia's only tall ship and offers tours, sails and private events on the water or dockside. *Providence* is a reproduction of the first ship authorized by the Continental Congress for the Continental Navy. TSPF was established in 2017 and is a 501c3 education organization based in Alexandria, Virginia. www.tallshipprovidence.org

#####