

The MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Richmond Museum of History

Spring 2016

SS Red Oak Victory Ship

SS RED OAK VICTORY: SHIP ON THE MOVE

by Johannes Hoech, Ship's Director

"On Friday, March 4, the *SS Red Oak Victory* left its berth for the first time since October 2011. It was a drizzly, dark morning that for me started at 3 a.m. when the NBC Bay Area reporter called to ensure someone would be at the Ship when their team was supposed to get there at 5:15 a.m. I sleepily confirmed and turned around to catch a few more minutes of sleep, only to be awakened again 15 minutes later when the first of many messages came, saying the coverage had been canceled due to "other, more urgent events," the other event being a lockdown at the Santa Clara County Jail. Now I was awake because that wasn't in our plan and no jail brawl was going to rob us of our well-deserved coverage.

So I tracked down the producer and started selling her on how cool the *Red Oak Victory's* move would be (*i.e.*, lots of noise, three big tugs, lights, people everywhere), and described the historical significance of the Ship and the Richmond waterfront to many people not just in the Bay Area but also around the country and the world. A short SMS came back: "Give us 20 minutes." That gave me enough time to shower, make some coffee, and get ready to hit the road (I live an hour away).

Sure enough, the message came back: "We split our team; the reporter is going to the jail and the photographer is covering your move." And less than 10 minutes later the photographer called (mind you, it was 4:30 a.m. by then), asking if I could meet him in 15 minutes at the Ship. For a guy that had supposedly left San Jose by 4:00 a.m., he sure got there quickly. I jumped into the car.

When I got to the Ship at 5:20 a.m., it was an eerie, drizzly morning. There was a mild breeze going, which carried the light rain everywhere. Near the stern, the NBC news truck already had its antenna extended, the Ship was lit up and the tugs were just arriving. Most of the crew was there and they were starting to work on removing the gangway. The excitement was palpable, and the reporter only said: "They love the night shot of the *Red Oak Victory*, we're streaming live. Let's do an interview right away." A few sound checks later and I had done my first interview, still holding all my own equipment that I had brought with me. Afterwards I told him I'd let him use my GoPro should his own camera start failing; he grinned and the ice was broken.

continued on page 4



With a push from a Foss tug, the Red Oak Victory inches past the Whirley crane into Basin #5.



Moving the Red Oak Victory - Richmond - 3-4-16

Cathy McAuliffe

<http://urbansketchers-bayarea.blogspot.com/>

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

What a whirlwind of activity the Richmond Museum Association experienced in the past few months! The fundraising dinner, the relocation of the *SS Red Oak Victory*/opening of the Rigger's Loft Wine Company and success of the Black Panther Party exhibit have kept Team RMA plenty busy through January and February. However, all the work that we've completed has prepared us for summer 2016 and what will likely be a busy summer season in light of the new attraction of the Riggers Loft Wine Company at the Port of Richmond.

The "*Celebrate 1905 and the Incorporation of Richmond*" fundraising dinner was a smashing success! The dinner at the Galileo Club was attended by more than 100 people and a good time was reportedly had by all guests. Several dignitaries were in attendance as well, including Susan Hildreth, former Director of the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Event revenue far surpassed our modest goal and the silent auction alone brought in over \$3,000! The highlight of the evening was to have Ms. Mary McVittie in attendance when we revealed the color image of the newly-rediscovered mural, "*Richmond: An Industrial City*." Mary's father, former long-time City Manager James McVittie, is featured prominently in the mural.*

A status update on our new acquisition, "*Richmond: An Industrial City*," is in order. The mural remains safely tucked away at the art conservator's studio in Marin County. It is overall in good condition but requires at least three phases of work before it can again be displayed to the public. First, several areas of loose paint are present on the face of the mural and require careful consolidation to ensure the paint does not flake off in the future. Second, the mural was originally glued directly to the wall with a thick lead-based adhesive that is warping the integrity of the canvas. Another round of consolidation on the front may be required depending upon the conditions after the adhesive is removed. Finally, the team must collectively decide what type of mounting or framing is most suitable. The total cost of restoration has yet to be determined, but it is expected to be in the tens of thousands of dollars. However, the price will be worth it to have a mural of this caliber on view at the Richmond Museum of History until 2040. I am busy planning fundraisers, speaking at service clubs to raise awareness about the project, and enlisting help to develop online fundraising tools (see Lecture on Victor Arnautoff article, this issue). We have started a Mural Renovation fund, and we hope you will donate.

The Richmond Museum of History has been busier than ever, due to the huge interest in the "*Richmond & the Legacy of the Black Panther Party*" exhibition. The opening reception on January 23 attracted more than 100 people; many reported being first-time visitors! The community response to the exhibit was so positive that the Museum is seeking funding to continue to tell the story of the Black Panther Party in Richmond through a popup exhibit that may travel to public places throughout the local area.

A small team of interns and volunteers is continuing the

effort to create a fully-digitized inventory of all the artifacts held in the permanent collection at the Richmond Museum of History. The Museum is in a good position to accomplish this herculean task because most of the collection is well-documented with paper records. However, little to none of that information has been entered into a searchable database. It is an exciting feeling for staff and volunteers to recognize that our small tasks each day, completed consistently over time, will collectively make a huge impact to increase public access to the historical materials we keep in trust. We would love to have you join us in this task! Please give me a call at 510-235-7387 if you are interested. Benefits include behind the scenes tours of the collection and the opportunity to experience rare and important historical artifacts. Know a local college or high-school student? Encourage them to consider the opportunity to complete community service hours here at the Museum.

Please check our organizational website at www.richmondmuseum.org for a complete listing of news and events related to the Richmond Museum Association. As always, thank you for supporting your local cultural organizations, especially the RMA!

Sincerely,


Melinda McCrary

*Mary and her sister Florence McVittie have spent their lives in the service of the local schools and the City of Richmond and they have been supporters of the Richmond Museum Association since its inception in the 1950s.

EAST BAY GIVES IS MAY 3, 2016!



Once again the Richmond Museum Association

is taking part in East Bay Gives through the East Bay Community Foundation! East Bay Gives is a 24-hour period of local giving that takes place all across the United States, giving small nonprofits like the RMA a chance to participate in significant crowdfunding efforts. Last year RMA raised \$1,800 during the 24-hour period and we hope to double that amount in 2016. Please mark Tuesday, May 3rd and East Bay Gives on your calendar and support your local cultural organizations. [Http://eastbaygives.org](http://eastbaygives.org).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeff Wright, President of the Board

It's a great time to be a part of the Richmond Museum Association! As the newly-elected RMA President, I am eager, enthusiastic and motivated to continue working with our leadership team, staff, volunteers and members, all working in a cohesive manner with the common goal of growing this wonderful organization. Working together, we can achieve tremendous success.

Moving forward, all of us should want to see growth in our membership, volunteerism, exhibits, event attendance and finances. As an organization, we are focused on creating a richer experience at the Museum as well as aboard our single largest artifact, the *Red Oak Victory Ship*. With your help we will be improving the "total experience" and we want the people of the world to not only know about it but to experience it for themselves. So let's start by making sure that all of the people of Richmond know about it!

You might be wondering "how can I help?" We need volunteers and docents at the Museum as well as aboard the Ship. We also need to increase our membership, financial resources and funding capabilities.

We need people to just joyfully and gleefully spread the word about the Richmond Museum of History and the *Red Oak Victory Ship*. Tell your friends and family members about the pancake breakfast held aboard the ship—better yet, bring them to the pancake breakfast!

Let us build upon the great work that has already been started. Everybody can do "a little something," even if it's just spreading the word. Take a moment and imagine how much greater the Richmond Museum Association will be with the combined efforts of a continuously-expanding group of enthusiastic supporters.

We have fertile ground here at the Richmond Museum Association. Let's cultivate it to the fullest, plant more seeds of involvement, engagement, and participation, infuse it with "miracle grow" and reap a bountiful harvest of cultural enrichment for present and future generations to enjoy. To quote a famous motto that applies to all of us who want to see increased growth at the RMA, "Just Do It."

THE *RED OAK* NEEDS

YOU...

...to be a greeter. It's a hard job -- you have to smile and welcome visitors to a great adventure. We especially need help on Saturdays and Sundays. Call the Ship at (510) 237-2933 for more information or to volunteer.

WELCOME NEW BOARD

MEMBERS

The Richmond Museum Association is proud to welcome new Board members, elected at the Annual Meeting in February: Tom Horsfall, Pat Pearson and Vinay Pimplé.

The Board elects its officers at the first Board meeting after the Annual Meeting. Newly-elected officers are President -- Jeff Wright; Vice President -- Sandi Genser-Maack, and Recording Secretary -- John Ziesenhenne.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

ABOARD THE *SS RED OAK*

Join us on **Sunday, April 10**, for the FIRST pancake breakfast of 2016!

Breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, orange juice and coffee. And enjoy a Mimosa for a small extra fee.

Never been to a pancake breakfast aboard the *SS Red Oak Victory*? Our regular patrons will tell you it's the best deal in town and a breakfast with a million-dollar view!

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children aged 8 and younger. Ask about the Breakfast Pass: six Breakfasts for adults, \$45, kids \$25, a saving of 16% and no expiration date.

Plan ahead and meet your friends:

April 10th - Celebrate Spring

May 8th - Mother's Day

June 19th - Father's Day

August 14th - Summer Fun

September 11th - Grandparents' Day

October 9th - Fleet Week

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SHIP ON THE MOVE

Continued from page 1

In the meantime, dawn was slowly breaking, and the crew was preparing the ship, cutting the electrical power, removing the gangway and some of the lines on the starboard side while on the port side the two pusher tugs were coming alongside, with a third tug circling near the stern of the ship. The smell of diesel was in the air, and the noise of our own standby generator drowned out most of the other noises, especially on the forward half of the ship. After we had boarded, we did a second shot of the *Red Oak Victory* during which I had to pretend to be at work. And suddenly, when I walked back to the starboard side, I noticed that we were already 75 feet away from the dock. The Ship had moved and I hadn't noticed a thing during all the frantic activity on deck.

That's when I told the reporter we were now at sea, and that breakfast would be served shortly, consisting of Eggs Benedict, waffles with strawberries, some OJ and a latte, and asked if he preferred nutmeg or cinnamon on his latte. He said he preferred the latter, but the cold drizzle hitting us sideways on the edge of the port bridge washed away our short dream of a delicious breakfast as the *Red Oak Victory* was heading toward the Golden Gate. I was busy recording the move with my cameras, watching the crew with amazement at how everything was so rehearsed and purposeful.

The Foss tugs turned and moved the Ship so gently, making it impossible to believe that a combined nearly 15,000 HP between the three tugs guided the *Red Oak Victory* to her new home. We pushed away from the dock, moved west to the front of Basin 5, started the needed clockwise rotation, and soon the bow was pointing to the opening of Basin 5. On the forward port side was the tractor tug *Revolution* with 5,080 HP at right angles to the *Red Oak Victory*, providing lateral control. Port aft was the thruster tug *Lynn Marie* alongside with 6,250 HP. And on the starboard forward side was the conventional tug "*Point Fermin*," also providing lateral control with 3,500 HP and ensuring the *Red Oak Victory* did not scrape alongside the starboard opening of Basin 5.

This combined total of almost 15,000 HP seemed to move the *Red Oak Victory* so effortlessly from her old berth to her new home as if she was a toy boat. Once the *Red Oak Victory* was half-way into Basin 5, the port- and starboard-side tugs started falling away and the combination of the remaining tug pushing from the stern and a bow line connected to a Maggiora & Ghilotti Caterpillar tractor pulling in the bow, and the *Red Oak Victory* slowly glided the remaining distance to her final home. Foss also had placed a small utility tug in the basin, which proved invaluable connecting the various lines to the shore, as well as ensuring that the *Red Oak Victory's* bow stayed centered in the basin so that she did not veer toward one side of the basin or the other.

From the bridge we also could see Richmond's Mayor Tom Butt, the RMA President John Ziesenhenne, and a few other dignitaries. Coast Guard officials were present to watch the move,



Ghilotti's equipment winching-in the ROV.

as were representatives from the Port of Richmond. And between Cliff Warren, who was the designated project manager from the *Red Oak Victory*, and the Bar Pilot Rick Hurt, who directed the maritime aspects of this operation in combination with the Foss Team, this move went off without a single hitch. Ghilotti Construction provided cranes in addition to its much-needed tractor, the Manson Company helped prepare the dock, and Moonlite Electric ensured the *Red Oak Victory's* shore-power hookup was available and to code. All this was the result of six months of planning, and of detailed execution rehearsals in the final weeks leading up to the move. Nothing was left to chance, and this entire team should be commended for their expert leadership of this complex operation; all of us on the *Red Oak Victory* thank them for their help.

Once in her final position, the lines were thrown and the Ship was quickly secured. The Foss team proceeded with the tricky re-installation of the gangway, and by 9:30 a.m. our reporter, who by now was definitely needed to cover the Santa Clara jail brawl, was able to leave the Ship. The crew proceeded quickly to finish tying up the Ship and immediately started hooking up the needed shore connections. By 3:00 p.m., shore power had been restored, water and sewage lines were hooked up, and the *Red Oak Victory* was ready to re-open the next day.

This exciting day ended with many of us celebrating this successful operation and the new chapter in the evolution of Richmond's waterfront that this move heralded with a glass of excellent wine at the newly-opened Riggers Loft Winery next to the *Red Oak Victory*. Surely that celebration was only the first of many post-shift outings to that great new addition to the Richmond waterfront.

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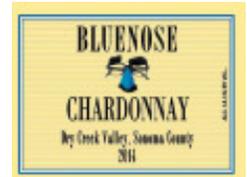


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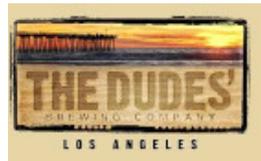


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- Jerry Frantz
- Lorraine Regier
- John Rodgers
- Glenn & Karen Stephenson
- Lydia Stewart
- Marsha Tomassi



"On Broadway Sonoma CA"



8TH ANNUAL HOME FRONT FILM FESTIVAL

Movies of the World War II era shown on our own World War II ship is one of the great pleasures of being part of a National Historical Park. Add to that the Ranger in charge, Craig Riordan, who shares insight and secrets about the movies, the stars and the times, and it is an adventure.

Movies are shown in Hold #3 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Refreshments are available at a most reasonable price.

Spring movies are shown on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The theme is "*Challenges at Sea*:"

April 14 "*The Caine Mutiny*," (1954), starring Humphrey Bogart

Challenges of leadership at sea.

May 19 "*Operation Petticoat*," (1959), starring Cary Grant
A submarine captain and crew face the unexpected!

In June, the summer season begins, with movies on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, and the theme is "*The View from Here: How Hollywood Shaped the Home Front View of the War and the World*":

June 9 "*Arise, My Love*," (1940), starring Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland

A journalist saves an American pilot who is going to be executed by Spanish fascists. A romance ensues only to be torn apart by Hitler's invasion of Poland and the start of WWII in Europe.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

- Anonymous, Black Panther Party Button Pin (ca. 1970)
- Artesia Historical Museum and Art Center Program, El Cerrito High School vs. Richmond High School Football Game (10/26/1945)
- Karen Stephenson, Victory Song Book for Soldiers, Sailors & Marines (1942)

Your ad could be here.

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Send an email to esandi@comcast.net to reserve your space.

June 23 "*The 49th Parallel*," (1941), starring Lawrence Olivier and Leslie Howard

The crew of German submarine sunk in Hudson Bay attempts to reach the neutral United States. They encounter brave Canadians with interesting perspectives along the way.

July 14 "*Casablanca*," (1942), starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman

Our annual screening of the most-beloved movie from the WWII era and the greatest romantic movie ever made. Come dressed as your favorite character!

July 28 "*Bombardier*," (1943), starring Pat O'Brien and Randolph Scott

Veteran pilots train young cadets to become bomber pilots and lead the new pilots on a dangerous mission.

Aug 11 "*Bride by Mistake*," (1944), starring Laraine Day and Alan Marshal.

A wealthy shipyard owner devises a plan to find a husband who is not interested in her money.

Aug 25 "*The Canterville Ghost*," (1944), starring Charles Laughton, and Robert Young

The WWII version of the Oscar Wilde story about cowardice, bravery and redemption, complete with American jazz and a darling Margaret O'Brien.



MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Museum needs a paper shredder, extension cords, folding chairs, power strips, a photo scanner and hand tools for gardening (claw, clippers, spades, watering bucket).

If you can donate these items or contribute toward their purchase, please call the Museum at (510) 235-7387.

“RICHMOND: AN INDUSTRIAL CITY”

ALL ABOUT ARNAUTOFF AND THE MURAL

The Richmond Museum of History is honored that Robert Cherny, PhD, will speak about Victor Arnautoff on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in the Madeline Whittlesey Room of the Richmond Public Library. Tickets for the lecture are \$25 and all proceeds go toward the restoration of the newly-rediscovered mural, “*Richmond: An Industrial City*.”

Victor Arnautoff, who was on the faculty at Stanford and worked under Diego Rivera, was also a primary artist on San Francisco’s Coit Tower, internationally famed for its priceless WPA-era murals. Arnautoff was commissioned to paint five post-office murals throughout the United States—one in Richmond. (See the Fall 2015 issue of *The MIRROR* for more details.)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Robert Cherny is the author of *Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art*, a biography of the artist that is currently in production by the University of Illinois Press. He is professor emeritus of history at San Francisco State University, where he taught from 1971 to 2012. Professor Cherny’s research focuses on the history of politics and labor in California and the West. He is the author of three books on U.S. politics in the years 1865-1925, co-author of two books on the history of San

Francisco, co-author of two college-level textbooks and has authored 35 journal articles or chapters in anthologies, most of them dealing with political and labor history in the West. He is also co-editor of two anthologies, one on California women and politics and the other on the Cold War and organized labor.

If you can’t make it to the lecture, you can still contribute to the restoration of the Mural by sending your donation to the Richmond Museum of History, P.O. Box 1267, Richmond, 94802.

Tickets are available now at 510-235-7387, at the Richmond Museum of History gift shop, or online at www.richmondmuseum.org/calendar.

Buy your tickets early as this event will surely sell out! We thank the Richmond Public Library for co-sponsoring this exciting event.

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FLAGS FOR THE RED OAK VICTORY

by Jeff Matthews

I joined the volunteer crew on the *Red Oak Victory* last summer, with no prior marine experience, but plenty of interest. I said I wanted to paint! The ship needs paint and lots of it. So, that's where you'll generally see me, stripping 70-year-old lead paint and replacing it with new Rustoleum. It's allowed me time to learn the ship, meet the other crew and learn procedures.

I've been involved in Civil War reenacting for years. A hobby I picked up lately is flag-making, and I've made a number of Civil War battle flags. I wanted an excuse to make a 48-star U.S. flag and found one: seeing the worn, faded 50-star flag hanging from the stern of the *Red Oak*, I determined to make a new one—period-correct with 48 stars. It turned out beautifully, but it certainly was a learning experience, being 6 feet by 10 feet in size. Too bad it didn't hold up well in the storms, but it can be repaired.

I found out we also carry a large "holiday ensign," roughly 9 feet by 15 feet, with 50 stars. THAT would be my next project! I used strong nylon this time, not quite the rich colors as on the first one, but again a very new learning experience. The material itself was simply not so "user friendly" as I would have liked. I hope everyone likes it—it turned out thus: [Photo of flag on garage]

I enjoy working on the Ship, and we hope to have this and all of our other flags flying for future events.



Close-up of corner detail.

RICHMOND'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

by Sandi Genser-Maack, Historic Preservation Commission

Nominees for this year's Historic Preservation Awards were due on March 25th and reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission in early April, so I can't tell you which projects, publications or people will be receiving awards this year. What I can tell you, is that the Awards ceremony and the Reception following it are always worth your time.

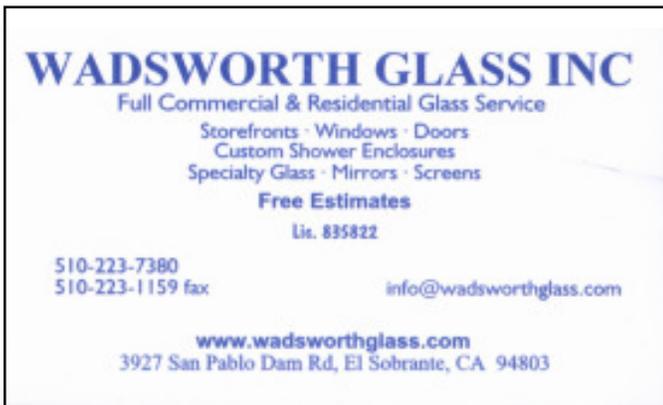
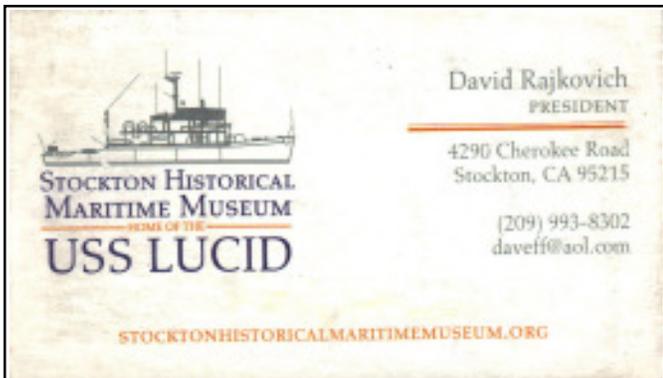
Please join the City of Richmond and the Historic Preservation Commission at the Historic Preservation Awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 25th at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers with a Reception at the Richmond Art Center immediately following. There is no charge for the ceremony or the Reception or for a glass of wine. Catering is by Contra Costa College.

RED OAK WISH LIST

Donate wish-list items or send a monetary contribution toward any of these things:

- 6-foot ladder (straight or step-ladder)
- White Christmas lights
- Cree LED light bulbs, 100W, 60W
- Electric griddle – commercial size
- Stand-alone convection oven – commercial
- Rags
- Traffic cones (orange)
- Haze-gray marine paint (approx. \$50/gal.)
(Hempel Coating Co.)
- Hydraulic oil for steering gear
(approx. \$67/5-gal pail)
- Cushions for the seats in the Theater

If you have questions about these items or about how to get them to the Ship, please call the Ship at (510) 237-2933.



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& invites to member only events
- ___ \$250 **Garrard Ave** –Benefits above
& “Behind the Scenes” tours of
museum collection & ship archives
- ___ \$500 **Barrett Ave** – Benefits above
& exclusive tour & luncheon with
museum curator & ship captain
- ___ \$1000 **Macdonald Ave** –Benefits
above & two tickets on
The Red Oak “Sail-on-the-Bay”

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Join at www.richmondmuseum.org or mail
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Richmond CA 94802



P.O. Box 1267
Richmond, CA 94802

Join the Richmond Museum Association on social media! We are on Facebook under Richmond Museum of History and *SS Red Oak Victory* (2 separate pages). We are also on twitter @richmondhistory.

The Richmond Museum Association is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit educational organization. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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Red Oak Victory Ship

Open Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun
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400 Nevin Avenue

Mail: P.O. Box 1267

Richmond CA 94802

(510) 235-7387 for information and Tour Appointments

Visit our website at www.richmondmuseum.org