

American Legion Post 20
National Press Club
529 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20045

July 24, 2018

Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet, USN (Ret.)
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Admiral Gallaudet,

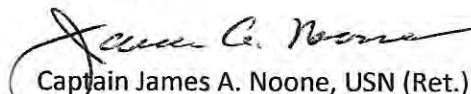
I would like to express the strong support of our American Legion Post 20 at the National Press Club for NOAA's proposal to expand the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary to protect additional shipwrecks from World Wars I and II off the coast of North Carolina.

Last March our Post was pleased to have a presentation by Tane Casserley of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary on World War II's Battle of the Atlantic. He impressed upon us the large number of shipwrecks that lie in waters off North Carolina's Outer Banks, including the sad fact that a significant number of Merchant Marine shipwrecks are currently unprotected from looting and damage.

As veterans, we believe it is highly important to protect these ships and grave sites as a way of honoring the memory of the brave sailors who gave their lives in defense of our nation. The preservation of additional sunken ships will also help to better tell the story of the fierce but often-overlooked combat that took place off our Atlantic Coast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Captain James A. Noone, USN (Ret.)
Commander, Post 20
American Legion

cc: Monitor National Marine Sanctuary