



# THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation

Volume 8

Winter 2011

## The Lightship Overfalls Is

Delaware's Newest National Historic Landmark

In a public ceremony, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Senator Thomas Carper unveiled a plaque designating the Lightship Overfalls a National Historic Landmark. With this designation, the Lightship Overfalls joins 12 other places or structures in Delaware which have been selected as "the most significant places in American history". The Overfalls is the only ship in Delaware so designated, and the only National Historic Landmark in Sussex County. For pictures and more details [CLICK HERE](#)



## Mitigation of Wetlands

### The Overfalls Foundation Creates Wetlands

On Friday, September 30, Overfalls Foundation volunteers put in the last plants to create an area of wetlands near the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment in Lewes. The new wetlands are to mitigate the area near the ship that was filled when the new slip for the Lightship Overfalls was built last year. For details, [CLICK HERE](#)

## MEMBERS HONORED ON GROUNDS

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Overfalls Foundation dedicated the Memorial Walkway, a new addition to the grounds at the historic lightship. This is a section of the walkway near the gangway to honor members of the Foundation who have passed away. The walkway begins with a large block inscribed:

**Bricks in this walkway honor members of the Overfalls Foundation who have crossed the bar. Through their efforts and contributions they have saved and preserved the Lightship Overfalls, as well as promoted other aspects of the Foundation's mission. While they have left us in body, their legacy remains to benefit generations to come.**

Following the large block are individual inscribed bricks for each passed member with dates of birth and death. The brick walkway is about six feet long and has space for additional names. When the entire area is filled, an additional six feet of bricks will be added to replace the current gravel walkway. Given the amount of gravel walkway available, the Foundation feels that it will have enough space to last for many generations.

At the dedication Tracy Mulveny, the Foundation President, spoke. She said, "That the ship is now in a condition and a setting worthy of her history and the crews who served aboard is due to the efforts and contributions of many people and organizations. The citizens of Lewes, the businesses, government officials at all levels, philanthropic organizations and many farther afield provided the environment that made this happen. We are extremely grateful to all. Within that group, the Foundation has a special bond with its members. The Foundation considers each of these members as significant and feels that they should never be forgotten."

**Bob Humes**

**1943—2011**

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## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE TRACY MULVENY, PRESIDENT



This has been a very exciting year for the Overfalls Foundation. In our first year as a fully renovated floating museum we hosted thousands of new visitors, almost four times as many as in prior years! We have received numerous awards for the work and dedication of our members, culminating in the 'grand prize', National Historic Landmark designation. Our beloved ship has become an icon for the entire greater Lewes community.

The work of the Foundation continues as the Dirty Hands Gang keeps us in shape, the Opening Party Committee raises funds to keep us going, the Education Committee spreads our story to school children and our Speakers Program helps to inform and entertain our members and friends throughout the year. None of those things could happen without the hard work and dedication of our members and volunteers. The magic in the Red Ship is in her volunteers and she loves you all.

The new year will demand more effort as we continue to grow. More guides will be needed as the number of visitors increases. The education program will need more volunteers for field trips and school tours. The Opening Party will be supplemented with additional fund raising events which will require additional volunteers. Of course we will continue to party at our Sundowners, Fall Fest and Holiday Party. So get out your calendars and start scheduling your Overfalls duty dates today!

As this eventful year draws to a close, my only regret is in the tragic loss of one of our very special members, Bob Humes. Bob's tireless work on behalf of the Overfalls, coupled with his good humor and diplomacy was a major factor in achieving the position we are in today. We are all grateful for the time we had to share with him. It will be our challenge to preserve all the work he has done. I am sure we will do everything in our collective powers to keep the light shining on the Big Red Ship.

Tracy

### Mark Your Calendar

**Dec 31, Midnight.** Drop the anchor on your very own ship!

Monthly Meetings will be held at 7:30 pm in St. Peter's Parish Hall on:

**Jan 13**  
**Feb 10**  
**March 9**  
**June 8**  
**July 13**  
**August 10**  
**November 9**

**Feb 21, 6-9 pm Mardi Gras Party at Irish Eyes**

**April 14, 8:30 am Breakfast at Cadbury**

**May 25 Opening Party**

**December 14, 7-9 pm, Holiday Party**

## Awards Received From Historic Naval Ship Association

The Foundation is a fleet member of the Historic Naval Ship Association (HNSA), an international organization dedicated to preserving historic naval ships and honoring the crews who served aboard. Every year HNSA asks its 175 fleet members for nominations for the eight different awards it conveys annually. This year the Foundation submitted three nominations:

**Casper J. Knight, Jr. Award:** To the Overfalls Foundation for successfully completing a twelve year project to save and preserve the Lightship Overfalls;

**HNSA Ship Maintenance/Preservation/Exhibition Award:** To Bill Reader for planning the above initiative and chairing the project from start to finish; and

**Bos'n Marvin Curry Award:** To Chuck Oakes for his attention to the ship on a daily basis and maintaining an environment that optimizes the use of volunteer resources.

The awards ceremony was held in Hawaii in September

## Lewes Historical Society Award The Lewes Historical Society awarded the Overfalls



a plaque in recognition of its "Excellence in Preservation", at a dinner and ceremony held at the Lewes Yacht Club in April. This is an annual award made to an outstanding preservation project in Lewes.

## Dirty Hands Gang Acquires Monomoy Lifeboat

Restoration of a Monomoy Life Boat, given to the Overfalls by the Cape May Maritime Museum, will be just one of the many projects awaiting the Dirty Hands Gang next year. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the lifeboat, get an update on this year's activities, or to join the group.

## Overfalls Maritime Hall of Fame Induction Gala at Yacht Club

The 5th annual induction into the Maritime Hall of Fame took place on October 8, at the Lewes Yacht Club. Inductees were: George Elliott; Charles Epifanio; Laurence Knapp; Mary Emily Miller; and Hick Rowland, Jr. Harry Frazer was recognized with a Meritorious Service Award.

For pictures and brief biographies of the honorees, [CLICK HERE](#)

## Membership Time

As the year comes to an end, it is time to renew your Foundation membership. We have sent out reminders with renewal forms and many members have already responded. If you are in that group, Thank you! If you haven't gotten to that yet, quick action would be appreciated. This year, for the first time in the Foundation's history, increased operating expenses, related to the improved ship and grounds, have dictated an increase in dues: \$30 Individual, \$40 Family, \$75 Business, with any amount above that greatly appreciated and well used. If you wish to pay by credit card, that must be done on our web site: [www.overfalls.org](http://www.overfalls.org). Mail checks to:

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Thank you for your continued support, our members are the key to making things happen in the Foundation!

