

Dear Navy League Friends of the USS Hornet Museum,

You and your organization are invited to attend *Return to Earth* on July 23, 2011

Celebrate ‘Return to Earth,’ the 42nd Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Splashdown on the USS Hornet

Museum’s Living Ship Series Commemorates Recovery of Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 Lunar Missions by Unveiling a New Apollo Exhibit Artifact

Alameda CA, July xx, 2011 – Relive the heyday of the U.S. space program as the USS Hornet celebrates the 42nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 ‘Return to Earth’ Splashdown on July 23. The commemoration is part of the USS Hornet Museum’s “Living Ship Day” series. The Hornet played a vital role in the Apollo 11 and 12 lunar missions having recovered the astronauts upon returning from the moon. Among the special guests will be celebrated author and trustee of the Hornet, Robert Fish who will discuss his book, “Hornet Plus Three – The Story of Apollo 11 Recovery.”

From 10am – 5pm, the public and media are invited onboard for a series of special events that will appeal to people of all ages, including families with children. The day’s highlights include the unveiling of a new piece for the Apollo exhibit housed on the Hornet. The three original “Hornet Plus Three” signs that hung on the Mobil Quarantine Facility or MQF will be on permanent display in the exhibit. The MQF was where the astronauts spent their first weeks upon returning from the moon.

In addition to the permanent exhibits, an astronaut space suit display, courtesy of NASA Ames, will be available for viewing. Historic Apollo themed tours of the ship will also be given.

The Hornet is home to the largest collection of Apollo artifacts on the West Coast.

Living Ship Day aboard the Hornet offers something for everyone. The museum comes to life as an operating aircraft carrier with flight simulations between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. as aircraft are lifted to the flight deck and placed into launch position. Visitors can meet former crew, sit in the cockpit of a fighter jet, and enjoy the sights and sounds of naval aviation. There will also be a Big Band Performance, at 1:00 pm .

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