

FROM: THE INTREPID SEA, AIR, & SPACE MUSEUM
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Intrepid To Go “On Leave” on Tuesday, December 5th

(New York, NY, December 5, 2006) On the morning of Tuesday, December 5, when the Hudson River tide is at one of its highest levels, the Intrepid will go “on leave,” as tugboats pull it to Bayonne, New Jersey. The Intrepid is expected to return in 2008 after a full restoration of the ship and the reconstruction of Pier 86.

The Intrepid will travel south on the Hudson River, passing *Ground Zero* and continuing south past Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty before heading southwest to the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor, Berth N5 (formerly Military Ocean Terminal Bayonne), where it should arrive between 2:30 and 3:00 PM. When the ship passes *Ground Zero*, former crewmembers and SUNY Maritime cadets, who are manning the rails at departure and accompanying the ship on its journey, will unfurl the Intrepid’s signature Memorial Day American flag in silent tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Following drydock repairs in Bayonne, NJ, the Intrepid will be moved to another location in Staten Island, NY for renovations and improvements. Concurrently, Pier 86, which is also home to the Growler submarine, and a British Airways Concorde, will be closed and completely rebuilt. The progress of renovations of Pier 86 can be viewed daily on the Intrepid’s website www.intrepidmuseum.org through Earthcam.

According to Arnold Fisher, Chairman of the Board of the Intrepid Museum, “This is a truly historic and exciting time for the Intrepid. We very much look forward to returning to Pier 86 in 2008 and continuing the mission of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, our founders, to honor our heroes, educate the public, and inspire our youth.”

“We are extremely grateful to the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all of the federal, state, and city agencies that came to the Intrepid’s side at her time of need,” said Bill White, President of the Intrepid Museum. “We are also thankful for the tremendous leadership and support of the Intrepid we received from Governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn.”

“In addition, none of this would have been possible without the support of our landlords, The Hudson River Park Trust, its chairman Charles ‘Trip’ Dorkey and President Connie Fishman,” said White. “They have been a great partner in this project and all that the Intrepid does. We look forward to returning to Pier 86 and again being a great part of the Hudson River Park.”

According to Susan Marenoff, Executive Director of the Intrepid Museum, while the Intrepid is on leave, the Intrepid Museum’s Education Team will continue to offer its popular educational programs to schools and other community based organizations, as well as partnering with institutions such as the New York Hall of Science, through its INTREPID SAILS Traveling Programs. INTREPID SAILS will offer hands-on science and interactive history workshops, professional development training sessions, Youth Leadership Conferences, “The Power of One” program, and new traveling assembly programs. Its video conferencing programs, Techno Trips, will continue to provide science and history programs for students, including brand new teacher training sessions.

“Not only was the USS Intrepid one of the most successful ships in US history, but while in New York it became a national historic landmark, and one of the city’s most unique attractions,” said Marenoff. “When the Intrepid returns, our visitors can expect new exhibits along with old favorites, and a truly enjoyable and educational experience.”

In 1943, the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier was commissioned for service in World War II and went on to serve as a primary recovery vessel for NASA and then in Vietnam. In 1974, the late Zachary Fisher saved the decommissioned Intrepid from being sent to the scrap yard and turned it into a true icon. His vision was to honor our heroes by making the Intrepid a lasting memorial to those who sacrificed for our country.

Established in 1982, the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum complex was comprised of the 900-foot-long aircraft carrier Intrepid with two full decks and four theme halls; the guided missile submarine Growler; and an extensive aircraft collection including the A-12 Blackbird, the fastest plane in the world, and the British Airways Concorde, the fastest commercial aircraft in the world. The Museum has been offering a wide variety of programs and events for children and adults.

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