



U.S.S. America CV-66 Museum Foundation

First Lady Laura Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Bush

I am writing you today concerning a decommissioned ship named after our great country, the USS America.

I am a preservation officer with the USS America Museum and Foundation, and we are attempting to acquire the America from the Naval Department to be used as an educational center and museum. As yet the Naval Department has not allowed her to be placed on the ship donation list and thus make her available to us. We have been given several reasons why they do not wish to allow her to be reutilized however when countered with sound solutions to the concerns, the reasons change.

We are requesting your help to obtain a final list of reasons why she should not be used so we may address each one with a viable solution and finally get her released.

I would like to take just a moment to show you why we think you might want to join our efforts. The USS America is a \$400,000,000.00 city within a city. The trades that were required to keep her going at sea are all trades required in the job market today. We propose to use those same trades to teach people a way of earning a living. By taking youths at risk or adults that need more education and giving them the tools to earn a living we give them pride and make them productive tax paying citizens. The America could house up to 5000 people while they attend schools for getting a GED, or for taking the trades classes, or for higher educational goals.

For instance her medical department provides a perfect opportunity to train doctors and nurses while providing low cost medical to those who are staying aboard and to the community at large. Her mess decks would provide a

wonderful environment to teach the culinary arts, and yet provide a medium for meals to homeless and those unable to get out such as the elderly. The America's many freezer compartments could be used to store cooked/frozen meals to be distributed to the homeless or victims of tragedy. Her boilers could be used to provide power and steam to the ship, and emergency power to the city around her, while also training people to run boilers for hospitals and large buildings in the community. These are just a few examples of what we have planned for her.

Our second goal is to provide an interactive fair and balanced history museum with contributions from all Americans of what has made America so great a country. Along with Naval Air and Sea exhibits depicting Naval history and tradition, we would like to have a memorial to all soldiers that did not return to us alive, including those we have lost in our present war.

The USS America besides being named after our great country deserves to be saved because she would provide us a low cost solution to housing and educating those most in need. The best part of the cost issue is she would generate enough income from tours and products being sold from her teaching labs to run her. All the government would need to help with is moving her. This cost will be incurred on taxpayers anyway due to the Navy's plan to sink her in the ocean.

Mrs. Bush all we ask is for a two-year moratorium on America's destruction, with the condition that when we put this plan all together with funding the Naval Department will release her to us and reinstate those items lent out to individuals and clubs from her by them. If you think of what this ship, that is already bought and paid for could mean to all citizens you cannot help but get as excited as we are.

May we meet with you for one hour to provide you with our plans to give you a total picture of how this all just makes good old common sense for everyone?

Sincerely Yours

Andrew C. Nichols