



## **USS MIDWAY MUSEUM RE-CHRISTENS SHIP ON ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

San Diego Tourism Authority president, Julie Coker, will break a ceremonial champagne bottle on the Midway's bow during milestone flight deck commemoration

Re-christening celebration also kicks off the museum's **FREE KIDS** admission offer

**WHAT:** The USS Midway Museum will conduct a flight deck re-christening ceremony to commemorate the famous aircraft carrier joining the U.S. naval fleet 75 years ago. The anniversary ceremony is a tribute to the Midway, the nearly 250,000 sailors and officers who served onboard the ship during its 47 years of service and the more than 16 million guests who have visited the museum since it opened to the public in 2004. San Diego Tourism Authority president and CEO, Julie Coker, is the re-christening sponsor and will do the honors of breaking a bottle of champagne on the ship's bow at the edge of the flight deck. Vice Adm. DeWolfe Miller, the commander of U.S. naval air forces who served on USS Midway as an A-7E Corsair attack pilot in the mid-1980s, will join Coker for the re-christening ceremony.

**WHERE:** USS Midway Museum (910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA)

**WHEN:** Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 at 9 a.m.

**Media are invited to attend. Request media arrive at USS Midway Museum by 8:40 a.m.**

**DETAILS:** On Sept. 10, 1945, the USS Midway joined the U.S. Navy fleet as the largest warship ever built. After 75 years of service to the nation and the visiting public, the museum ship will be re-christened to set its course for another seven and a half decades of providing fun, engaging and educational experiences that strengthen future generations.

The christening ceremony is a long-standing naval tradition intended to bring good fortune to a new ship and its crew. This unique re-christening event is an extension of that important navy custom, but this time will be centered on bringing sustained good luck to all those who today continue to share the Midway with millions of guests from around the world. USS Midway Museum president and CEO, Mac McLaughlin, will join Julie Coker and Vice Adm. Miller for the flight-deck re-christening ceremony.

A skydiver will parachute onto the Midway flight deck with the ceremonial bottle of champagne, and the first 75 groups to visit the museum on Sept. 10 will receive a specially designed commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Midway coin.

As part of Midway's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the museum is launching its **FREE KIDS** admission offer that will run through Dec. 15, 2020. Up to two children, ages 6-12, will receive FREE admission to the Midway Museum with one full-paid adult admission ticket. This offer is available on the museum's website as well as at its ticket booth on Navy Pier.

Now that children are back to school, many engaged in virtual learning from home, this FREE KIDS offer provides a fun and exciting opportunity to complement home learning for kids.

**VISUALS:** Commemoration ceremony to include color guard and national anthem; skydiver to the flight deck; remarks from representatives of the USS Midway Museum, Commander Naval Air Forces and the San Diego Tourism Authority; and the breaking of the ceremonial re-christening champagne bottle.

***The ceremony will be held before the museum opens, will not be open to spectators and conducted with all public health and safety protocols in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.***

**INTERVIEWS:** Interviews available with Julie Coker, Vice Adm. Miller and Mac McLaughlin following the ceremony.

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**USS Midway Museum** – America's Living Symbol of Freedom – [www.midway.org](http://www.midway.org)

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