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**PRESS RELEASE**

*Battleship Commission Announces Newest Appointment*

**Mobile, Alabama, March 24, 2016** – USS Alabama Battleship Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. William N. Tunnell to the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. Tunnell was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to fill the Commission seat vacated by Janet Cobb when she was named the new executive director. Tunnell will serve as Commissioner until November 1, 2019.

Tunnell, who recently retired as executive director, brings a unique perspective to the Commission. His knowledge of the tourism industry and the management and care of the historical properties of the Park will aid the commission as they continue to oversee the management of Battleship Memorial Park, south Alabama's top tourist attraction. During Tunnell's tenure he served as president of the Historic Naval Ships Association and as chairman of the Alabama Hospitality Association, Alabama Hotel & Motel Association and the Advisory Board of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. In 2014 Battleship Memorial Park was named Alabama's Attraction of the Year by the Alabama Department of Tourism.

"I am so excited about Bill's appointment as a Commissioner," stated COL Patrick Downing, chairman, USS Alabama Battleship Commission. "His 25 years of experience at Battleship Memorial Park will be invaluable to the Commission. Bill knows more about the USS Alabama than anyone alive. I once told Bill that if the USS Alabama could ever get underway again, he would make a great captain for her."

Janet Cobb stated "Governor Bentley's appointment of Bill Tunnell as the newest Battleship Commissioner is great news. Bill's association with Battleship Memorial Park spans a quarter-century, so his institutional knowledge is unmatched. His contribution as a Commission will prove invaluable."

USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission serves as the governing body for Battleship Memorial Park. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and serve eight year terms. For more information on Battleship Memorial Park visit our website at [www.ussalabama.com](http://www.ussalabama.com) or our facebook page at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park.

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