



FOR IMMEDIATE

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PRESS RELEASE

Battleship Memorial Park Attendance for 2017

Mobile, Alabama, February 1, 2018 – USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park is pleased to announce visitor attendance for 2017. This past year the park welcomed 335,717 people who came to tour the historic WWII battleship USS ALABAMA, submarine USS DRUM and Metal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion, and 449,861 people who visited the park. This was an increase from the 2016 visitorship of 294,724 and 394,930 respectively.

“The USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission is pleased to report another very solid year of attendance for 2017,” stated commission chair Lt. Col. Gary Fitts (Ret.). “With the celebration of the 75th anniversaries of the USS ALABAMA and USS DRUM, and the special programs surrounding these National Historic Monuments, our visitorship remained strong. This past year we were able to honor those men who served aboard these naval vessels and celebrate their contributions to American history with all those who visited the park.”

“2017 was an outstanding year for Battleship Memorial Park,” reported MG Janet L. Cobb, USA

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(Ret.), executive director. “The superb restoration work done by our curatorial and maintenance staffs aboard USS ALABAMA is drawing rave reviews. The operations team keep our grounds looking great and our special events running smoothly. USS DRUM is completely restored inside. Our international visitor numbers are up,” explained Cobb. “If you and your family and friends haven’t visited Battleship Memorial Park lately, we look forward to seeing you soon.”

During 2017 Battleship Memorial Park hosted celebrations throughout the year marking the 75th anniversaries of the USS ALABAMA and USS DRUM, including five WWII historical reenactments by the Living History Crew. In March, a new exhibit, *The Great War* opened to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI. A new fundraiser benefiting the USS ALABAMA, *Fireworks on the Fantail*, was launched on July 4 aboard the ship. The park continued to remain the host site for large community events and celebrations including the *Veterans Day Celebration and Parade of Flags* featuring 4th grade students from Mobile and Baldwin counties and the *Veterans Day Concert* featuring the Mobile Pops.

This past year the park launched a new website, complete with on-line ticket sales capabilities.

“The USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission is looking forward to another great year at the Park,” concluded Fitts. “We have another great year planned.”

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park is self-sustaining with revenues from admissions, special event rentals and donations funding operations. For more information and for a calendar of events, please visit our website at www.ussalabama.com or follow us on facebook at USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park.

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