




MEMORANDUM

Date: April 11, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Albert P. Childress
City Manager 

Subject: **24-5488 USS Aries relocation to the city of Key West**

Introduction

The International Hydrofoil Society seeks to obtain authorization from the City Commission to move the USS Aries from its current location in Gasconade, Missouri to the city of Key West as a permanent floating museum.

Background

The PHM Squadron was decommissioned in 1993. Five of the six ships were scrapped, but PHM-5, USS Aries, was purchased at auction by Mr. Eliot James and is currently located at the USS Aries Museum in Gasconade, MO. Mark Debar Vice-President of the International Hydrofoil Society is involved in an effort to explore the possibility of relocating USS Aries to Key West, adjacent to the USCGC Ingham Museum ship. In order to pursue this, we are seeking collaboration from other organizations that see the potential benefits associated with placing USS Aries in Key West, as it was part of the PHM squadron that performed major drug interdiction operations when homeported at Trumbo Point.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office requests Hydro Foil Society present an explanation and justification of benefit for the City of Key West to move the USS Aeries to Key West as a permanent floating museum.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Pictures of the USS Aries and the hydrofoil ships in Key West when on active duty. Proposed new location map.

TODAY IN KEYS HISTORY



Photo from the Dale McDonald Collection

On this date in 1993, the U.S. Navy Hydrofoil Squadron, shown off Key West in the 1980s, sailed from the Southernmost City for the last time.





